## JFA Helps Volunteers Escape an "Easy Escape"

2014 Report – Special Edition for Supporters of Jon Wagner



THANKSGIVING 2014

JFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

Dear Friend,

McKinsey Smith sent us a word of thanks recently, reflecting on how JFA changed her life. I'd like to share her words with you along with my commentary on some of JFA's numbers for 2014. As you reflect with me on the things God has accomplished through JFA over the past year, please consider giving a generous year-end gift to help Jon and JFA train up more world-changers like McKinsey.

"Prior to coming to the JFA seminar, abortion was something that was terrible...it resulted in a mix of emotions for me: anger, bitterness, grief, pain, and the worst one of all was hopelessness. What on earth could I do to stop possibly millions of women from killing their children and hurting themselves?"

McKinsey's hopelessness is common among pro-life advocates before they find JFA. They survey the culture in America where abortion has been broadly legal for more than four decades. What can they do? Making abortion just as unthinkable as other human rights violations, such as those committed by ISIS, seems impossible.

> "It was a lot easier for me to just ignore it – remain busy and pray. Staying busy was an easy escape.

> "[The JFA] seminar changed all of that. [The JFA team] put words in my mouth, tools in my hand, and set my feet out under me to walk in this new power and influence I had!"



The JFA seminar (Seat Work) prepares a volunteer like McKinsey (left in both pictures) to change hearts on abortion and help make abortion unthinkable. But this is just the beginning. McKinsey and volunteers like her find that their learning takes on new life at an outreach event (Feet Work) when they put the seminar material into practice in real conversations that change hearts.

"My first day on the outreach, my eyes were opened to the reality that a lot of people were hurt, and unforgiveness was the leading cause of their bitterness; their support for abortion was rooted in that pain. Others simply didn't know exactly what abortion was or was doing to people. Still others knew, but were exactly like me, apathetic in the feeling of helplessness. Because of JFA I got to minister to



the broken, have an intellectual conversation with those who needed the facts, and set fires under...people like me."

JFA completed an average of more than one day of outreach per week during our ten-month training season from January 15 to November 15. Outreach events are the most difficult part of our

work to arrange, but the hard work is worth it. One other component of our training program, though, makes all of the difference: mentors.

"My mentor, CK, was an immense help! Not to mention all the other staff members that answered all the difficult questions I had and demonstrated things I didn't understand... They believe in me.

"I haven't seen anything quite like what [JFA is] doing. And the testimonies that pour in of lives being saved and changed proved to me that no conversation is in vain and that Justice For All really makes a difference."

McKinsey's reflection is just one of many such reflections we've received this year that illustrate JFA's results. We expect that this won't be the last we'll see of McKinsey. In the coming year, we believe she and many other

## 100 returning volunteers logged over 400 additional outreach hours and 700 conversations (numbers estimated).

the coming year, we believe she and many other volunteers will return to use our outreach events to continue creating heart-changing conversations, just as 100 volunteers did this year.

JFA is privileged to aim all of its operations at one goal: *making abortion unthinkable for a strong majority in the United States by creating millions of one-to-one conversations*. Far from what people are expecting, though, we're creating a different kind of conversation marked by working together to get closer to truth; it's a conversation in which the Spirit of God uses our spirit of humility to cause people to welcome the opportunity to reconsider their views about abortion.

Those conversations don't exist without each person we train – a different kind of pro-life advocate who skillfully balances love and truth; a pro-life advocate who longs to end abortion in America.

Help us light a fire under hundreds more like McKinsey in 2015. <u>Consider giving a generous</u> year-end gift to support Jon's work with JFA.

Warmly,

Steve Wagner Executive Director, JFA

## A NOTE ABOUT JON'S WORK WITH JFA

Jon Wagner has mastered both JFA's training material and the art of dialogue. He excels as a mentor, encouraging and challenging pro-life advocates to live their convictions. We thank God for him. As Director of Regional Team Development, Jon has a mind for strategy, and Jon infuses every situation with the worldview of the Scripture. He is optimistic by nature, to be sure, but his optimism is also grounded in his resolute love for the Body of Christ and for working together as a team, as God intended. He has the simple confidence that God will provide through local churches and not in spite of them. This optimism not only animates his own work with JFA, but it has begun to permeate the thinking of the entire staff, especially when we run into roadblocks to creating the partnerships necessary for JFA's work. *Thank you for your faithful support of Jon's work with JFA*. – Steve Wagner

48 days of outreach, 17 college campuses

10 JFA training staff and

as mentors or mentors-in-

training for JFA events.

10 volunteers currently serve