



Fear: Friend or Foe?



Tammy Cook's Monthly Update

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Fear. Most of us can identify with *fear*. And sometimes *fear's* companion, *anxiety*, decides to tag along for the ride just to complicate life even more so. Does the idea of having a conversation with someone who disagrees with you about abortion cause your blood pressure to rise or your heart to pound? Let me assure you that your feelings are normal.

It might surprise you, but I'm not going to tell you to find a way to get over your fear. Instead, I want you to acknowledge *fear* and then use it as your motivation to speak up for unborn children who have no voice. When I started doing this work 20 years ago, I had the motivation but I didn't have any training and I made many mistakes. I slowly learned the essential skills that helped me successfully navigate tough conversations; but most importantly, I learned to entrust every conversation to God. St. Teresa of Calcutta's words have given me so much comfort over the years: *God has not called me to be successful; He has called me to be faithful.*

The mission of Justice For All (JFA) is to train thousands to make abortion unthinkable for millions, one person at a time. And each month I share stories from our conversations with pro-life and pro-choice advocates. This month I want to take it one step further. Precious lives are at stake because 3,000 unborn babies lose their lives every day in our country. We need to act with urgency ... the same urgency as if the lives of 3,000 two-year olds were being snuffed out silently every day.

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He has called me to be faithful.*

-St. Teresa of Calcutta

One of JFA's goals for 2017 is for our staff and volunteers to have 5,000 conversations. I invite **you** to be part of helping us reach that goal. You've read stories each month of our staff or volunteers having an impact, and now I want you to have the opportunity to make that same impact! Getting out of our comfort zone is what God asks of each of us. I know, I know, it's so much easier for us to stay secure in our own bubble and go about our lives ... taking care of our families, managing our households, and living life. I get it. And I know ... it's a busy time of year. Have you noticed that it always seems to be a busy time of year?

In the enclosed letter, *5000 Conversations in 2017, Part 2: Everyday Life*, and the accompanying Resource Bulletin on the reverse side of that letter, JFA's Executive Director, Steve Wagner, explains how you can get started having conversations. I hope you will take this challenge and who knows? Maybe one of your conversations will be featured in a future monthly letter or even a JFA quarterly Impact Report! And even better, hearts and minds could be changed, and in turn, lives and souls saved.

Keep in mind that success is not measured in the number of people that change their minds. Success is measured by how often we move beyond our fear to have a conversation. We are planting seeds and asking God to produce fruit from our work. Conversion is up to God, not us. We must be faithful vessels of truth and love to this hurting world.

In Christ,