



# Catherine's May Update



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Catherine Wurts

JFA Newsletter

May 2010

## Register now for Pasadena training - May 23!

Most of you live in southern California - come join me in L.A. this month! See flyer below...

### Don't Debate - Dialogue!

Overheard at Colorado State University - Greeley, April, 2010

Catherine (C): What do you think about abortion?

James (J): It doesn't matter.

C: Do you mean it doesn't matter to you or it doesn't matter at all?

J: Both. I think that the biggest problem we have in the world

(See "Dialogue" on page 2)

Dear family and friends,

In his book *Common Ground Without Compromise: 25 Questions to Create Dialogue on Abortion*, JFA Director of Training Steve Wagner shares how finding areas of agreement helps propel a discussion forward without compromising truth.

How do I find agreement, though, with pro-choice arguments? I try to remember that at the heart of every great deception is a nugget of truth. That's what makes it so believable!

When someone says, "Abortion should be legal; women have the right to decide what to do with their bodies without the government getting in the way," isn't there a lot of truth to that?

(See "Nugget of Truth" on page 2)



Justice For All's nationally acclaimed training is coming to you!

## Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue

A two-part pro-life ambassadorship training program

Learn to

Change hearts.

Save lives.

### Part 1: Interactive Seminar "The Seat Work" "Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue"

Register for the seminar below, then plan to attend Part 2... →

Date: Sunday May 23, 2010

Time: 1-5:30pm.

Place: Pasadena, CA (location to be announced)

Register: Maureen McKinley at (316) 683-6426; [Maureen@jfaweb.org](mailto:Maureen@jfaweb.org)

Suggested donation: \$20 (\$10 for students)

### Part 2: University Outreach

The "Feet Work" ~ Come at least one day of outreach! Participation in Part 2 is necessary – sign up at your seminar.

Pasadena City College

Mon, Wed & Thu May 24, 26 & 27  
7am-3:30pm

[www.jfaweb.org/mission.pdf](http://www.jfaweb.org/mission.pdf)

(cont'd. from "Dialogue" on page 1)

today is overpopulation.

C: Why do you think that?

J: Because there are millions of people starving in the world, and soon we won't be able to support any more people at all!

C: I agree there are many, many people in the world who aren't getting the resources they need to survive. That's a serious problem. Often it's the result of government corruption or oppression, though. There is a lot more we need to do to work for justice for people who find themselves in those situations. Do you really believe it's simply a problem of having 'too many people' in the world?

J: Yes, because if there were fewer people in the world, there'd be fewer starving people.

C: I see. But if someone offered as a solution to overpopulation that we start killing off all of the starving children under two-years old so at least they don't have to suffer their entire lives, what would you think of that?

J: No way - that's crazy! But they're *already living*. That's the point. You can't kill them.

C: Ok, so if unborn children were as alive as two-year-old children, couldn't we say it'd be wrong to kill them, too, *even if* the world was overpopulated?

J: That makes sense...

\* For more information on the myth of overpopulation, see the Population Research Institute's [www.pop.org](http://www.pop.org)

(cont'd. from "Nugget of Truth" on page 1)

Women *should* have the right to decide what to do with their bodies - *in most cases*. Stating that we agree with this point will help a pro-choice person understand that we *do* care about women and their rights, increasing our credibility in their eyes.

Now we can challenge the lie by asking: Is it okay for a woman to *abuse* her rights by using them to justify a violent act against another human being?

Finding common ground is, as Steve says, the fuel that keeps a conversation going. When people only state what they each believe and why the other person is wrong, the debate soon slows to a standstill. Like a car that's out of gas and has to pull off the road, they "agree to disagree".

We need to fuel up regularly in our conversations by explicitly stating when we *do* agree. The other person will likely feel understood and try to understand our point of view, propelling the dialogue forward.

Last month I met "James", a student in Colorado, who said he believes overpopulation is a much bigger problem than abortion (see "Dialogue" column, left). I seriously disagree, but if I had replied, "Overpopulation is a myth and a lame way to justify killing babies," he probably would have left. Essentially, I would have said, "I'm not interested in hearing about what you believe is the biggest problem in the world today." Would any of us stick around for that conversation?

So I looked for the nugget of truth in what James believes. *It is true* that there are many people in the world who don't have enough resources to survive. I didn't have to compromise my belief in order to find common ground, and James could see that I was seriously considering his concerns.

In the end, James and I had a 45-minute conversation in which he shared with me that, while his father is an OB-GYN who performs many 1st-trimester abortions, he actually disagrees with abortion in most cases. We talked through those cases, and before he left, James said,

**"This is the only way our society will ever make progress on the issue of abortion - having more conversations like this."**

Christ's Peace, Catherine

### Please pray for...

- a larger office building for our growing staff in Wichita, Kansas!
- safe travels and good health for our team of 35 flying and driving to California from all over the country for our Pasadena training and outreach.
- abortionists. Many do what they do out of a good desire to help women. Pray they will realize that killing children is an evil way to 'help' women.