



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

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

(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

(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.