

Training Christians to Create a Different Kind of Conversation about Unintended Pregnancy and Abortion

March 31, 2021

Dear Friend of JFA,

Years ago, prominent Christian philosopher J.P. Moreland was in Wichita to speak at a conference and we invited him to come to our office to engage our trainers in Q&A. A few minutes before the Q&A was to begin, J.P. wasn't in the room with our staff. I wandered outside and found him gazing into the sky. He explained that he *had* to purposefully take time to give thanks.

At the start of every working day, our team pauses to pray. A common refrain among our prayers is "thank you for all of JFA's supporters." Like our friend J.P., we feel we *must* purposefully give thanks. I'd like to pause now and say these same words now in your presence: *We thank God for you*. We thank God for your partnership in helping at our office, in volunteering with us at outreach events, in providing space in your home for JFA activities, in providing better-than-restaurant meals and betterthan-hotel accommodations for our teams on the road, and in praying persistently that God would use JFA's efforts to finally make abortion unthinkable. You have provided funding during the pandemic and the 2020 year-end so generously and sacrificially! We are struck with awe by God's faithfulness through you: We thank God for you.

Since that day looking up at the sky, J.P. has very publicly and very candidly revealed a bit more of why he *must* give thanks: he has struggled for a long time with debilitating anxiety and depression. Whether we struggle in the same way or not, would you join me in thanking God for his work through JFA? And please allow me to also say those same words to you: *thank you*.

Jon Wagner's letter, "Out of My Comfort Zone" (enclosed), shows some of what God has been doing through you and JFA. You can see links to J.P.'s book on anxiety, more staff reports, and more pictures at www.jfaweb.org/march-2021. Please enjoy and give thanks with us!

Recent In-Person Events (Selected)

- 1/16: Presentation Mary St. Hilaire (Lincoln, NE)
- 1/20-2/10: Workshops Kaitlyn Donihue (Geneva, OH)
- 1/28: Various Aquinas Catholic MS-HS (David City, NE)
- 1/29: Seminar Aquinas Catholic HS (David City, NE)
- 1/30: Workshop Benedictine College (Atchison, KS)
- 1/30: Seminar St. Peter's (Lincoln, NE)
- 2/17: Three Essential Skills Tammy Cook
- 3/7: Various Trinity Baptist (Norman, OK)
- 3/8-3/9: Outreach University of Oklahoma
- 3/27: Workshop Tammy Cook

- Steve Wagner, Executive Director

Recent Online Events (Selected)

- 1/23, 3/13: One-Day Love3 Workshops
- 1/22: "Counsel of Trent" Podcast Steve Wagner
- 2/10: "Personally Opposed" Steve Wagner
- 2/18: "Hard Cases" Steve Wagner
- 2/23: Presentation Kaitlyn Donihue
- 3/13-4/7: Weekly Workshop Series Kaitlyn Donihue
- Various Love3 Courses (100 participated since 1/18)
- Various Love3 Mentoring Sessions

See <u>www.jfaweb.org/calendar</u> to register for upcoming events and see pictures of recent events.



Newsletter from Jonathan Wagner MARCH 2021



"Out of My Comfort Zone"

CHA student volunteers grew through JFA's recent Oklahoma outreach.

Comfort can be a very good thing. Often, though, too much focus on comfort stunts our growth, distracts us, and can make it more difficult to impact others.

In fact, being pushed out of our comfort zones can often be an amazing blessing to us and to those around us.

This concept rang very true during our recent



outreach at the University of Oklahoma (OU). Over those two days at OU, our friends from Christian Heritage Academy (CHA) in Del City, Oklahoma joined us on campus for supplemental training, conversations around our display, prayer, and surveys to engage students on the OU campus.

Consider the poignant responses we received from journal entries following the outreach event:



"Awesome day of outreach!!! I have been praying about this a lot and praying for [at least] one conversation. The Lord gave me one and gave me a successful one. The training [before the outreach] was extremely helpful." - Michael

"The most effective aspect [of the outreach] was the mentoring... What impacted me the most was having conversations and having a mentor role play. It helped me realize I am capable of having conversations with people about big topics and being able to share my faith through them." - Sarah





"Today was good and very helpful. I thought it was going to be scarier than it ended up being...personally I feel a lot more prepared to witness and reach out to others who think differently." - Blythe

"[The outreach] impacted me because it pushed me out of my comfort zone. I have a prolife/political Instagram account, so I've had conversations with people, but this was the first time I got to talk with someone *in person* who disagrees with me." - Abby

"This outreach had a pretty dramatic impact on my life. It forced me to be bold and reach out of my comfort zone. I really enjoyed continuing to reach people and have intentional conversations about abortion." - Emma

"The impact this [outreach] had on me personally was just being able to see other people's points of view but also getting to have the opportunity to reach out to people and get out of my comfort zone and have the ability to have these hard conversations. My mentors really helped me get through the conversations by being there with [us] at first and then slowly letting us on our own. The aspect of just being comfortable going out and approaching people helped me personally grow. I also met some fellow Christians too." - Mady

Now it is your turn. In fact, this is a great opportunity for all of us. Let's get out of our comfort zones. Is there a neighbor to whom you need to reach out? Or maybe it's a fellow classmate you want to encourage. Do you know someone who may be very open to a conversation about abortion, yet you've been unwilling to reach out? These conversations may very well be awkward and challenging. Still, may we all, by God's grace, step out of our comfort zones for the sake of truth and justice.

We are here to help! Our Love3 online workshops (<u>www.ifaweb.org/love3</u>) and mentoring sessions (<u>www.ifaweb.org/love3#mentoring</u>) can help you along the way. Defending human value together,

Jonation Wagner

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It will take an eternity for the unborn to defend themselves.



Complete the Love3 Online Workshop Course in...

7 Weeks: Tuesday Nights, 4/13 - 5/25, 8-9 PM CT

7 Weeks: Wednesday Mornings, 4/14 - 5/26, 10-11 AM CT

7 Weeks: Thursday Nights, 4/15 - 5/27, 7-8 PM CT

1 Week: M, T, W, Th, F @ 7-8 PM CT + Sat. @ 6:30-8:30 PM CT, 6/7-6/12

1 Day: Sat. @ 1:00-8:30 PM CT (with a break for dinner), 4/17 or 5/15 or 6/12

Online Everywhere Via Zoom. Free. Invite Friends.

www.jfaweb.org/love3

Get More Details + Read Testimonies + Register. Or, Register by Calling 316-683-6426.



Calling All JFA Alumni!

Have you attended a Love3 Online Workshop, 7 Conversations in 7 Hours, Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue, or an in-person JFA workshop?

Or, have you participated in outreach with JFA anytime during the past 20 years?

Do you want to create more conversations about abortion but would like more mentoring or encouragement from JFA trainers?

Would you like to meet other pro-life advocates who are also alumni of JFA's training program and who also share your passion for unborn children, moms and dads in need, and sharing the Christian worldview with outsiders?

Join Us for Love3 Mentoring Sessions!

Free. Online. Get More Info or Register: www.jfaweb.org/love3#mentoring