



A Glimpse Inside

All Three Wagners Share from the Heart

BLOG: WWW.STEPHENMWAGNER.COM

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Dear Friends,

We're on a great adventure. Since we left Los Angeles, we've given two support-raising presentations, spoken to two other groups, trained 300 students for Arizona outreaches, and mentored eight JFA trainers. I flew to Washington, DC to speak to 750 students. My job as Director of Training for Justice For All is off to a great start.

Stop. That's not the whole story. It's been sanitized. Actually, our transition from LA to Kansas has been rocky. Want the real story? Here's a sketch in phrases and pictures:

January 5 – teething baby – car trip from LA to Houston – stop to train 90 students in Tucson – baby can't sleep more than 30 minutes at a time, day or night – Elsie enjoys grandparents, an uncle, an aunt – family gets a cold – one day car trip from Houston to Wichita – arrive at 1 AM – 2.5 days in town – dad flies to DC for two days – three days in Wichita – scrape ice off the windshield for 30 minutes multiple times in weather that's down to 16 degrees – all three fly to Arizona for 9 days – which climate are we in now? – dad gets filmed for a documentary – baby's two bottom front teeth appear out of nowhere – back in Kansas just long enough to get new licenses – board the plane to North Carolina – February 13



Washington, DC: The 750+ crowd assembled at the Students for Life of America (SFLA) conference. After my morning keynote, I was swamped at the JFA table with a continuous stream of students for the next seven hours. One student named Katie said,

"This was one of the best talks I have ever heard."

Wichita, KS: Trying to smile as I scrape ice for half an hour. I think I'll let the defroster handle this job next time, while I wait inside!



Denver Airport: Rebecca & Elsie get some floor time on the way home from Arizona. A reason to smile!

Over
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A burst of activity. But how are *we*? To find out, I decided to ask each family member to share with you their feelings and a request for prayer:

Elsie: MaMaMaMa – mmmmmm – giggle – smile – reaching for Daddy’s nose – Grunt – screech – aaargh – mum mum mum [Translation: I’m really happy to be able to see my dad so much when he has to be on the road training people and trying to extend Christ’s love and truth to moral relativists and skeptics. But it’s been hard for all of us to put in place a routine, and so I’m having trouble sleeping soundly without my parents holding me and that makes them cranky. Life is so full of mysteries, and I’m busy trying to solve them. Why does Daddy’s ear have so many crevices in it? And will I ever be able to get some real food off of all of these vegetables my parents give me to gnaw on? And paper! I love the crinkling sound of paper! I just wish my parents would let me eat it. Daddy asked me to share my feelings, so here goes: I feel unsettled most of the time, because everything keeps changing. I feel like I need some routine. It looks like as of last night, my parents are trying to institute some of that at bedtime. I’m looking forward to cooperating, but I need God’s help. We’ll be in three states and six cities before we come back home on March 5. That’s a lot of new walls, colors, faces, floors, skies, and climates to take in. **Please pray...**

- ...that I will learn to trust God as I am learning to trust my parents.
- ...that I can feel the stability of Christ as He joins me in the challenge of people & activities.
- ...that I can feel safe in all of the different beds and environments where I’ll be sleeping and growing.]

Rebecca: This transition has been a lot harder than I expected. I feel tired already, and the busy spring travel schedule is barely underway. I’m glad we can all travel together, but it’s not easy. I want to help Elsie through this transition, and yet I have no idea what she needs or how to help. The hardest part is my struggle to find any time with God, or even *the desire* to find that time. Having a good attitude (or at least striving for one) used to come so much easier, but right now I don’t even want to try. And I hate that. I think I just want to sleep for a year...straight.☺ **Please pray...**

- ...that I would find joy in these struggles, instead of just waiting for them to be over.
- ...that I would have wisdom, insight, and patience with Elsie through our travels
- ...that I would bring peace and joy to Stephen’s life, and not be an added drain

Stephen: I’m feeling internal pressure, being overwhelmed by all of the irons we have in the fire: Support-raising, setting up a new home and office, learning new office procedures, learning to manage a department, helping my daughter sleep, helping my wife as she feeds and cares for our daughter. More than stress or tiredness, I feel a mysterious sadness I don’t really understand. It’s not about the change. It’s *in the midst* of the change. It manifests itself in anger and a pervasive grey feeling. Perhaps you’ve felt that too at some point? And I’m sad that I can’t seem to set aside the time to meditate on the Scripture and reflect on my emotions. Not to mention that I think I had enough discussions with relativists on this last trip to Arizona to last me a lifetime. **Please pray...**

- ...that I will show the patience of Jesus to each person.
- ...that God will illuminate my sadness.
- ...for wisdom as I seek out moments of meditation during these busy transitional days

Thanks for standing with us in prayer during these challenging days. It truly is an adventure.

Trusting God with You,

Stephen

Stephen Wagner