



A Different Kind of Conversation

Share JFA's New Website with a Friend



WWW.STEPHENWAGNER.COM

STEPHEN WAGNER'S MONTHLY UPDATE

APRIL 2011

Dear Friend,

“Remember that the goal of today is to learn to have a different kind of conversation about abortion.” John Michener, one of JFA’s mentors, was reminding our volunteers at a recent seminar that people long for a conversation where we ask questions, listen, and find common ground. Unfortunately, most have never experienced it.

Having a different kind of conversation, though, assumes that we can get the conversation started in the first place. Along with teaching our volunteers the nuts and bolts of good conversation, then, we also give them tools for starting the conversation.

One of the tools *you* can use to start that conversation is our new website. It explains and illustrates that “different kind of conversation” we’re creating, and it also functions as a tool to get that conversation started. After all, how many people in your life realize that reasonable conversation on abortion is possible?

Here’s my challenge for you: After going to check out the website yourself, share it with one person you know. That person might be pro-life but doesn’t know about JFA. Or, she may be a pro-choice person who might be drawn to discuss abortion if she realized you want to discuss it in the way JFA describes in the website.

For the person who might disagree with you, I suggest making it your goal to have a different kind of conversation about abortion with her. For the friend who’s pro-life, I suggest making it your goal to ask him to consider joining my support team so I can train others to have that conversation. With the new website, this is easier than ever. Just send him to the **Meet the Mentors** page. There, he can easily find my entry, including a picture, a short bio, links to help him know me personally (Facebook, blog), and a link to support my work. The **Meet the Mentors** page is also a great window into my work in another way, since helping the staff shown on that page grow as thinkers, speakers, and mentors is my primary responsibility at JFA. I am making a strong push from now until the end of summer to bring my support level to 100%. Thanks for helping me with this task.

www.JFAweb.org

Recently, I had the privilege of working with a small team to create JFA's new website. We're very proud of it. Share it with a friend!

On the reverse, find a list of upcoming events, updates on my 2011 goals, and some family updates you don’t want to miss! Also, find a link to my recent blog post featuring sample dialogues to help you use the website to start that “different kind of conversation.”

In Christ,
Stephen

Starting “A Different Kind of Conversation” with a Friend

- See my April 16, 2011 blog (www.stephenmwagner.com) for sample dialogues to help you use JFA’s new website to start dialogue with pro-life and pro-choice friends.

Family Updates

- Rebeccah is pregnant! She’ll be about 21 weeks along when you read this letter, so we expect that in September, baby #3 will show his or her face. That’s right. We don’t know if it’s a boy or girl. ☺
- Nora is walking as a norm and Elsie is talking up a storm. Rebeccah spends a lot of time training them and laughing with them. Every time work takes me to the office or out of town, I’m jealous. I’ll send pictures in an upcoming newsletter.

April Update on Three 2011 Goals

- **Common Ground Book:** In January, I released my book, *Common Ground Without Compromise*, for free at www.commongroundbook.com. The offer includes a built-in incentive to create that “different kind of conversation.” One who fills out the form receives the first four chapters in eBook form via email (Part I). Then, when he or she sends me a reflection on a conversation created using the book, I send the final eight chapters (Part II). My initial goal was 1000 Part I downloads by March 31. At present, 49 people have downloaded Part I, and one person confirmed that he has used it to create dialogue. So, although my initial goal was clearly unrealistic, that’s 49 more people reading the book! You can help me start that conversation with more people simply by sharing the www.commongroundbook.com website. Thanks!
- **Mentors Working Towards Certification:** We are working hard to reach our goal of eight JFA mentors fully certified to teach the JFA seminar by June 2011. Currently, two are certified and one needs just one section to be certified. Three mentors have just a few sections left to complete, and four others are making good progress. Please pray that our busy mentors will set aside the time to learn the material so we can send them out to conduct seminars and outreaches without me.
- **Support Level at 72%:** Recently, two families have committed to support my work at \$100 a month, bringing my support level to 72%. Pray for the many phone calls and meetings I’ll be having in the next four months. My goal is to bring my support to 100% by September 1.

Recent and Upcoming Events (2011)

- March and April Events in TX, NM, and CO: 211 people attended 7 ADD seminars; 116 attended a JFA outreach for the first time (a total of 2 campuses and 4 days).
- April 30, May 2 – *Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue (ADD)* Seminars, in partnership with Right to Life of Central California (RTLCC) – (Fresno, CA)
- April 30, May 2 – JFA Mentor Training, in partnership with RTLCC (Fresno, CA)
- May 3 & 4 – Outreach at Fresno State Univ., in partnership with RTLCC (Fresno, CA)
- See JFA’s public calendar at www.jfaweb.org/Calendar.html for more details.