

Partnership Prospers

Josh Brahm and the RTLCC Team



STEPHEN WAGNER'S MONTHLY UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

Dear Friend,

“We train people to train. We mentor others to mentor others to mentor, well...others.”

As you can see, describing discipleship can get convoluted quickly. I've suggested to the other members of JFA's leadership team that when we talk about “training” or “mentoring,” we should always add an object. What are we training or mentoring people to do? *Dialogue on abortion.*

There remains, however, a valuable truth behind the “train to train” language. We're seeking to *reproduce ourselves* in others in much the same way that Christ did with His disciples.

At JFA, we've decided to focus on pouring ourselves into the lives of a few individuals who want to adopt our approach, who want to become like us. Under David Lee's persistent direction, we have pursued partnerships with organizations interested in having their members adopt this mentoring emphasis.

Our partnership with Right to Life of Central California (RTLCC) is especially gratifying to me. Instead of trying to reinvent the wheel, RTLCC looks to us to help them learn to “train trainers.” RTLCC's lead trainer, Josh Brahm, has become a good friend and colleague.

More than any other person in the country right now, Josh is attempting to replicate JFA's mentoring program. So, as I have begun to develop tools and systems to help our mentors mentor others, Josh is implementing those systems and testing them. Do these systems really work? How do we need to adjust? Josh's willingness to dialogue and give feedback is invaluable.

And so is his impact. He's currently training eleven pro-life advocates in the Fresno

September Trainer Spotlight: Josh Brahm

**Director of Education and Public Relations,
Right to Life of Central California**

“The JFA certification program is living out the model from 2 Timothy 2:2. This isn't just about making me better at what I do, it's about making a bunch of people around me better at what they do: defending the pro-life position with a measure of gentleness and reverence that most pro-choice people have never seen...”



“When I started the program, I thought learning to [present the JFA content] would be the most helpful to me...But the most meaningful part of this is the part I was hesitant to try: mentoring mentors. I thought, ‘How could I possibly have the time to mentor a bunch of mentors? I'm struggling to get the rest of my projects done!’ But sitting down with my mentors, sometimes two or three times a month, and helping them to better communicate the pro-life message has been very gratifying, because I get to watch the growth that comes when we put that much energy into helping someone. I know I wouldn't have started doing that without the prodding of Steve Wagner.” – *Josh Brahm*

Note: To find out more about Josh, see prolifepodcast.net



JUSTICE FOR ALL TRAINS THOUSANDS TO MAKE ABORTION UNTHINKABLE FOR MILLIONS, ONE PERSON AT A TIME.

WEB: WWW.JFAWEB.ORG

STEVE'S UPDATES: WWW.HBMM.NET

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area to become his mentor team. Indeed, we're sending *only one trainer* to help lead the RTLCC/JFA seminar and outreach events later this month (September 17, 19, 20, and 21). The team Josh is training will shoulder the lion's share of the mentoring duties, giving volunteers the same quality training that JFA staff would, but for thousands of dollars less in airfare, gas, and car rentals.

Even though Josh has extensive pro-life speaking experience, he humbly solicits critique. He wants to grow as a speaker, mentor, and thinker. I'm excited to see him purposefully instilling that humility into those he mentors. It's the same willingness to learn that I've attempted to model for every person I mentor.

Josh is also a careful thinker who's not afraid to ask tough questions. He's exceptional in his attempts to find and understand pro-choice people. In fact, he has many pro-choice listeners to his weekly talk show (see sidebar).

Along with Josh, the whole team at RTLCC is helping us pioneer an approach to partnership that will extend the reach of JFA's program to the lives of thousands we can never touch directly. I've been talking about this multiplication aspect of my work for years (see my [July 2004](#) and [February 2005](#) newsletters), but only now am I beginning to see how the dream of a network of thousands of pro-life dialogue trainers might become a reality.

Please pray that God will prosper JFA's approach through more partnerships like the one that's blossomed with Josh and RTLCC.

Just as the partnership with RTLCC and Josh encourages me, your partnership each month keeps me mentoring those who are willing to mentor others. Thank you.

Partners in Christ,

Stephen

P.S. Our team is headed tomorrow to northeast Kansas. I'll be coaching them from Wichita so that I can stay close to Rebeccah to help with the delivery of our baby.

Life Report: A Tool for Trainers

#126: How Do You Respond to "Impossible" Pro-Choicers?
by LifeReport



What started as a podcast has become a weekly television and YouTube show. Josh and RTLCC use these audio and video media to share our common approach to dialogue with a larger audience. Here's a reflection I recently sent to Life Report:

"Josh and the team at Life Report produce on a weekly basis the best short-format, web-based discussion of the abortion issue available today. Bar none. Whether you tune in via iTunes, Facebook, YouTube, television, or ProLifePodcast.net, you need to tune in. I'm a regular listener because it nourishes my soul to know that there are such even-handed and humble advocates for the pro-life view. In a word, Life Report is refreshing. It's no wonder that the Life Report team also counts many pro-choice advocates among its audience. People of all perspectives on abortion hunger for the sort of discussion in which people take truth seriously but also genuinely want to hear opposing viewpoints and evaluate them fairly. Josh and his team produce a show that is like a good square meal made from the finest ingredients by a master chef. If you've been dining in a fast-food dump of talk radio and shout-over-each-other television, feed your mind and heart like I do at the Life Report table each week. You won't be disappointed."

Life Report Episode 126

Rebecca Haschke, Josh Brahm, and I discussed what it would take for us to change our minds on abortion and what we think would be a reasonable approach for pro-choice advocates to take to the same question. In the discussion, I went out on a limb and asked the esoteric question of whether the unborn might be able to feel pain without a brain. Watch [Episode 126](#) and let me know what you think!

