

# A Quadriplegic Gets to His “Feet”

Free Book Helps Bring Reconciliation



STEPHEN WAGNER'S MONTHLY UPDATE

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Dear Friend,

How do you do feet work when your feet don't work? Paralyzed below the chest, Chris Bowen found a way.

I first learned of Chris when he requested my free eBook version of *Common Ground Without Compromise* after hearing Josh Brahm promote it on the Life Report podcast ([www.prolifepodcast.net](http://www.prolifepodcast.net)).

Even though Chris spends a lot of time confined to a *seat*, he recently wrote to tell me that he used my book to put *feet* to his pro-life views in a special conversation:

I've been wanting to let you know that I'm ready for the second half of your book, *Common Ground Without Compromise*. I used the method suggested in the first half, beginning a conversation with someone who identified himself as “very pro-choice” by seeking common ground before dealing with issues on which I knew we would disagree. This resulted in him now identifying as pro-life.

I began by seeking to clarify that we both held our beliefs because we were concerned about the welfare of women, and that we had reached the conclusions we had each come to because we felt those conclusions best served the needs of women. This worked great, because it dispelled the propaganda spewed by the left-leaning media that pro-lifers are engaged in a war against women.

Next, we were able to find common ground in our desire to seek ways to address the underlying societal issues that caused some women to feel that abortion is their only choice when they are faced with an unplanned pregnancy. We both agreed that there was a greater need for education, although not the kind of graphic sex education Planned Parenthood pushes. It turns out that he was unaware of Planned Parenthood's agenda which proposes to introduce graphic sex education to elementary school students. When I showed him proof, he began to look a little more critically at Planned Parenthood, which eventually resulted in him now being able to see the true face of the largest abortion provider in the world.

Finally, regarding the issue of abortion itself, this is where the real surprise took place. I began by asking how he felt about late-term abortion. He replied that he was adamantly opposed to late-term abortion, but he was unaware that this type of procedure was available in a number of states, or that the federal government places virtually no restrictions on abortion through all nine months of pregnancy for any reason. It turns out that he thought abortion was only provided to women in the hard cases.

## You Can Do What Chris Did!

When I wrote *Common Ground Without Compromise*, my colleague David Lee (now my boss) encouraged me to do all I could to keep people from thinking they had accomplished something by reading the book and putting it back on the shelf. To meet this challenge, I wrote into every chapter exercises for creating conversations. The book was released in January 2008. When I released the free eBook version in January 2011, I added one additional incentive to encourage people to put the principles into practice in real conversations. I divided the book into two parts and sent Part I to those who requested the book, letting them know that they could only receive Part II if they reported on a conversation they had using Part I. Chris Bowen's letter gave an example of one person who took that challenge seriously.

You can follow in his footsteps. Go to [www.commongroundbook.com](http://www.commongroundbook.com) to request the free eBook. I'll send Part I right away and look forward to hearing a story of how you used it in a conversation. Then I'll send Part II.



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

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Once I was able to show him the truth about the availability of abortion in the United States, it was very easy for me to begin sharing the truth about pre-born human beings, beginning with the SLED acronym, and working my way into some of the more complex pro-life arguments. Luckily, once I laid out the case for the humanity of the pre-born, the arguments for abortion didn't hold as much weight and were easy to refute, even the rape/incest argument.

The best part is that this person is my Dad. We had not spoken for quite some time before this. I am adamantly and actively pro-life, as well as outspokenly Christian, and my dad had bought into the mainstream media lie that pro-lifers and Christians are far-right-leaning extremists, and because he was left-leaning politically, he thought we must be enemies.

Thanks to your book, Josh's podcast, and God's grace, I was finally able to address the issues that appeared to separate us, by first finding common ground. That much-needed first step broke through the adversarial wall that had been built and reinforced by the culture of death through the mainstream media, enabling me to explain away the faulty reasoning behind the so-called need for abortion. The next phase will be to introduce him to the historically verifiable person Jesus Christ. Please pray for us.

I can't wait to see what the second half of your book has to offer.

Thank you very much, and God bless you!

What a joy to see how my modest attempt to help people learn to listen and find common ground helped Chris and his dad to reconcile. Please pray with me for Chris's ongoing discussions with his dad.

This month I and JFA's team of trainers have been working to help pro-life advocates in Georgia, Texas, and Oklahoma learn the same skills Chris used in conversation with his dad. Let's pray that the skill of finding common ground doesn't only produce reconciliation between those who disagree. Let's pray it also produces deeper conversations that help people find reconciliation with God. That's the ultimate goal.

Warmly,

*Stephen Wagner*

P.S. Chris was so excited about my work that he has faithfully supported me ever since downloading my book. Chris's support and your support have really encouraged me this month. Thank you.

**See [www.commongroundbook.com](http://www.commongroundbook.com) for links you can send to friends.  
Explore the book, download it for free, or purchase a paperback version.**

### **Will Feet Work Happen?**

At JFA, we use the term *Seat Work* to refer to the first part of our training program, which is an interactive seminar. We use the term *Feet Work* to refer to the second part of our training program, which is an outreach event. Both are guided by JFA mentors who help people move beyond simply studying how to dialogue to actually doing it.

Chris's reading of my book and conversation with his dad included the same *Seat Work* and *Feet Work* dynamic, but Chris didn't need a mentor to take the tools and ideas presented in my book and put them into practice. He is exceptional.

I thank God for people like Chris who have created dialogue with my printed work over the years, but I also thank God that the team at JFA emphasizes seminar, outreach, and mentors as indispensable to training. Because we place such a high priority on these three training elements, the conversation that is barely possible for the exceptional person becomes all but certain for the average person.