



Table Talk

Celebrating 5 Years  2019-2024



VOLUME 3 // ISSUE 3

Strengthening People Affected By Disability

FALL 2024

Director's Note

Happy Fall to you and yours.

Have you checked out our new website yet? We're excited about it because it allows us to communicate our message and ministry more clearly. And it has a very user friendly "back side" which allows Joan and Anna to update the site regularly.

We've added two new features to our site. One is specific prayer requests from our team for our ministry. You can find them here: luke14exchange.org/prayer#request It is our goal to update these twice a month.

The other you'll find in the lower right corner of every page. It's an icon of a person. By clicking that, a huge variety of accessibility options are shown. This makes our site

friendlier for those with low vision, ADHD, cognitive impairments, seizures, and many other disabilities.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on these features or any other part of our website. Email me at Jerry@Luke14Exchange.org

In late October, our team will meet to make our plans for 2025. We believe that will include the need to increase our office space and move it out of our personal home office. We don't know where we'll land, or what the space will look like, but we are terri-cited (that's terrified + excited) to begin the exploration. Would you pray as we plan?

Mission:

We coach Christian communities, mentor people affected by disability, and encourage their families until God's table is full.

Vision:

- To exchange a life without God for a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- To exchange a life of isolation for a life in community.
- To exchange a life of low expectation for an abundant life with purpose.

Meet Bethany

We've welcome Bethany Reynolds as the newest member of the Luke 14 Exchange team, and we couldn't be happier. Her addition to our team means we're able to minister more effectively to people affected by disability!

We interviewed dozens of candidates and agreed there were a few who could do the job well. But Bethany stood out with a mix of education, experience, and being in a family affected by disability. She has the right temperament to meld into our team.

Bethany will work most directly with Jerry, supporting him in his various projects.

Bethany is married to Kenny and has 3 children: Eli, Erin, and Oliver. Fun fact: She was a fairy godmother at Walt Disney World!

In her own words, "As a parent to a son with a disability, I have learned first hand what the power of prayer and community can do. I am looking forward to being part of a ministry that encompasses those priorities."

Please join us in welcoming Bethany. You can send her a note of encouragement at Bethany@Luke14Exchange.org.



Recently Heard

"Thank you for your vulnerability. It was eye opening." This after a seminar where we spoke about family caregiving.

“ Thank you for understanding our story. ”

"Thank you for doing this [teaching Bible Study at ROAR/Noah's Landing]. I try to witness to the people around me, but I'm so glad to know I am not alone. Thank you for this Bible study."

WHERE TO FIND US

2nd & 4th Mondays

ROAR BIBLE STUDY
Formerly Noah's Landing

October 10 -15

PRIVATE MINISTRY EVENT
in California

December 14

CREATIVE MINDS
in Munn Park, Lakeland, FL



MORE WAYS TO FIND US

 **Website**
Luke14Exchange.org

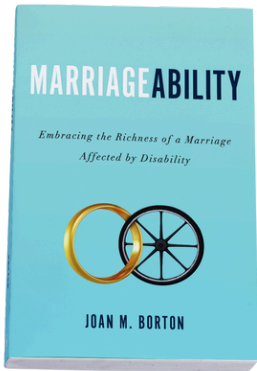
 **Facebook**
[@Luke14Exchange, Inc](https://www.facebook.com/Luke14Exchange, Inc)

 **Instagram**
[@Luke14Exchange](https://www.instagram.com/Luke14Exchange)

 **LinkedIn**
[luke 14 exchange, inc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/luke-14-exchange-inc)

 **YouTube**
[Luke14Exchange](https://www.youtube.com/Luke14Exchange)

MarriageAbility Open Doors



When MarriageAbility: Embracing the Richness of a Marriage Affected by Disability launched, we had grand plans for how we'd distribute the book . . . and then came Jerry's accident.

"The best laid plans of mice and men oft' go awry." But thankfully, when our best laid plans go awry, God's plans don't!

Through God's gracious hand, and the sharing by many of you, we've sold 331 books so far—which is almost one per day. Periodically, people buy multiple copies and tell us to keep them to give out. This has been a huge blessing to couples who need the resource but can't afford it.

The farthest the book has traveled so far is to New Zealand! The reader sent Joan a message saying she and her husband were struggling with the changes in their marriage because of her multiple sclerosis. The night before, they had a hard conversation. When she woke up the next morning, she began an internet search for resources to help them. MarriageAbility was one of the first books she found and ordered it right away. She was optimistic that reading a book by those who live a similar life would be a tremendous help.

Another door the book opened is with the local office of Veterans' Affairs (VA). We met some of their staff when our tables were across the aisle from each other at a resource fair. Funny thing though, we'd been unknowingly directed to the wrong table. But by the

time the organizers realized the error, it was too late to move. They didn't know they had put us right where God wanted us to meet and talk with the VA staff.

We were invited to become a community partner of the local VA office. This means we, along with other community resources, get promoted among the veteran community. We are an organization they feel comfortable referring veterans to when marriage and/or caregiving is a concern.

Another of their staff bought MarriageAbility. A few weeks after the resource fair, she invited us to speak at their virtual provider's summit. The entire day's topic was Family Caregivers. She thought what she read in the book would offer a perspective the providers needed to hear.

That event happened at the end of August. Despite some technological glitches because of bad weather, it was a joy to speak with forty providers - a mix of family caregivers and medical personnel. Several people commented they appreciated having their experiences validated. They realized they're not alone. That may be the greatest value the book offers. The hope people find in knowing there are others walking a similar path.



Available on Amazon or visit [Luke14Exchange.org/MarriageAbility/](https://www.luke14exchange.org/MarriageAbility/)

By purchasing MarriageAbility you will support the ongoing ministry to strengthen marriages and families affected by disability.

WAYS TO GIVE

Online:

www.luke14exchange.org/donate/



By Mail:

3616 Harden Blvd #163
Lakeland FL 33803

Or call us:

863-940-3816



IN MEMORY

Our sincere thanks to Janice Bagley-Lester for her gift in memory of her late husband, Rick Lester. It is our honor, Janice, to serve on behalf of you and Rick.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Board Members (we meet every other month via Zoom) to help set the course and promote the ministry.

Check out our wish list on Amazon <https://a.co/cBhxoeE> or search for Luke 14 Exchange Wish List.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH60299

Until God's Table Is Full

by Natalie Kale

We asked Natalie to share her two-sided experience with you as she has been a long term donor to L14E and a temporary staff who serves in the gaps when we have need:



"...until God's table is full."

When I was first introduced to Luke 14 Exchange, this phrase in their mission jumped out at me immediately.

"The Table" has served as one of the primary ways I have experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in my life. When it becomes hard to see Jesus through all the façades we have built around His church, I find Him when I turn down the noise, and return to the table.

Jerry's and Joan's heart, and that of their team, is clearly to come alongside people and make room for them at the table with Jesus. Specifically people who may have been overlooked or had challenges even getting to the table due to the myriad of impacts that come with a life affected by disability. They are the sorts who tear holes in roofs to lower a friend to Jesus (Luke 5). Their love is proximate - it comes up close and alongside.

And I know this because I don't just know about them as a supporter of their ministry. I know them. I am welcome at their table. I started out as a fan of what I knew of their ministry, but since then, I have been privileged to both serve their ministry & count them as friends.

It has been an encouragement to my (occasionally jaded) heart to see behind the scenes how they live out their mission with integrity and good humor. They are tenacious, humble, and joyful! The fruits of the spirit are abundant and evident. Though they no doubt grow weary at times, their lives speak to the truth that they have found strength in the joy of the Lord.

Having been both a supporter of the ministry from the outside, and now also serving from the inside, I am confident they will continue to make room and make way - until God's table is full.

Fun Fact from Five Years

Thirty-six donors have been with us since the beginning of Luke 14 Exchange in 2019. Together they've given over \$240,000 to reach people affected by disability for Jesus. Thank you for setting the table for us!