

May 2015

Dear Sustaining Partner,

“Is this thing in my right hand, a lie?” (Isaiah 44:20)

“You can spend your one wild life trying to outrun glossy lies...Let go of the lie.” (Ann Voskamp)

Mrs. Browning, my first grade teacher pitched me a lie I caught and held because it seemed true enough. She stopped at my desk as I used my yellow pencil to write letters of the alphabet on blue-lined paper. She watched me for a few moments, and then spoke, “Your penmanship is so bad you will never amount to anything.” Everyone heard. I heard. Immediately my “right hand” grasped what was probably a thoughtless, off-hand comment meant to get me to try harder as absolute truth. After that my handwriting deteriorated and all my life it’s been something about which I am inordinately self conscious. I didn’t try to “amount to anything” because I believed I wouldn’t. I couldn’t. After various clashes with administration and “invitations” from teachers to find a class where I would be happier, I finally just stopped going to school. I accepted this muddled journey as truth---a glossy, attention-getting lie that held me in its grasp. I kept moving--- never finishing anything because I didn’t forget what Mrs. Browning said. I never did. Not for one day. I believed what she told me was true and lived from it. The sad part is that I missed out because I seriously believed I was not capable of success or being a blessing. In that way a lie can hold a person captive. I know now of course the whole thing was ridiculous. In the meantime, I lost opportunities because I believed and operated from the perspective of a lie.

It took years for God to get through to me regarding His call on my life and His inability to make mistakes. I began to understand God’s intention for me--- for all people--- is to break free of lies. Those we’ve caught from others and the lies we’ve told ourselves because it’s easier than facing what feels like potential disappointment. What is very clear is that from the very first lie ever spoken, “You surely shall not die,” (Genesis 3:4) the enemy of our souls has robbed us of freedom and blessing. When we operate from brokenness, we are not capable of ministering grace, redemption or reconciliation. The primary impact of lies is that everyone loses.

I said in last month’s letter I would address another lie that significantly and negatively impacts this ministry. The short of it is because people believe that pregnancy resource center work is “women’s work,” everyone loses. To think that pregnancy and families should be only the concern of women is ludicrous. To not understand the crucial role God assigned to men pertaining to families and communities is tragic with consequences that bleed down through generations. According to Tim Challies, *“If we can read the*

Bible and walk away denying male headship, we can walk away denying any doctrine that offends our sensibilities.” The truth is that God made Adam first---then Eve and the family came along after; not the other way around. Our society has reversed that process and we’re paying for it---BIG TIME! However, the question we must ask is, “How will they know the process is out of order if there is no one to tell young people the truth about God’s plan for families?”

We hear all the time, “I didn’t have a dad. I grew up with women. I would marry her, but I don’t know how to be a husband, and I sure don’t know how to be a dad.” We have young men willing to learn, but few older, godly men who are willing to invest time...who want to deliberately leave a spiritual legacy in our community. That strikes me as being just plain wrong. Godly men who don’t want to take the time to reproduce? Why? That kind of heritage doesn’t happen by chance. But I understand that there is no glamour---it’s not a role for which you will receive awards, trophies or peer accolades. If a man chooses to work with young men to make families strong, it will cut in to TV time, sports time and free-to-be-me time. The man cave may become superfluous.

The lie that only women need to volunteer at Pregnancy & Family Resource Center is holding back this ministry. We NEED men, and if we had the men willing to say “Enough,” who would step out and commit to do the hard work, we could better enable young families to grow strong and true. We could snap a plumb line.

Let me tell you about “D.” He and his girl, “E” live together because the idea of marriage, even to create a family unit for their coming baby, is foreign to him...and he’s scared. He’s 31---never had a job, knows he needs to find one to provide for her and the coming baby, but has no clue...NO CLUE...how to go about getting work, and even if he had an idea of what to do, he’s failed so many times, he’s frozen in place. I have spent hours talking to and praying for this young man, but I’m just another woman (though with God’s perspective) in his life. Even if I can relate a bit to his story, it is not appropriate or healthy that I mentor him. So then, who? Is he resistant to the idea of a man pushing him to be a man? Yep! Who of us doesn’t dig in our heels when we face a hard thing? “D” is no different. If no one helps him what will happen to him and his girl and baby? Nothing good, that’s for certain. He is only one of MANY who believe their own lie, “There is no way I’m getting out of this. Nothing is ever going to change. I’m incapable of success.”

Bottom line. We all have glossy, believable-sounding lies we hold in our right hand---which cripples our strength. We can reinforce the lies for one another, or we can charge the gates of Hell where all lies began, and together tear down generational strongholds which have for too long held us captive. We need heroes. Women AND MEN who care. Do you? Really? Then do something...please.

For Life!

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