

August 2018

Dear Sustaining Partner,

***"Someday I will understand Auschwitz.' This was a brave statement but innocently absurd. No one will ever understand Auschwitz. Auschwitz itself remains inexplicable. The most profound statement yet made about Auschwitz was not a statement at all, but a response.***

***The query: "At Auschwitz, tell me, where was God?"***

***And the answer: "Where was man?"***

~ William Styron~

Often a good question leads to the correct answer. When I engage in conversation about what I see wrong in our world, my comments solidify my personal responsibility. If in fact, I become aware of a problem I am part of the solution or I contribute to the problem if I choose to do nothing. In the days when Hitler's "Final Solution" was planned and implemented, those who did nothing are more culpable than God who is frequently blamed, because they chose to do nothing. God, as we are assured in The Bible is always working to redeem and restore. If we believe Him, we don't need to see the process. The eternal plan is not always evident. What we do or don't do makes an immediate impact for good or ill in our world. Thus, in any serious moral issue the question becomes not "Where is God?" but "Who is willing to step in to do something?"

As I've previously noted, EVERY shooter (But one where both parents had checked out.) grew up in a fatherless home without the positive influence of a male role model/mentor. People ask, "Where is God when tragedy strikes?" I wonder, where are those who could have stepped up and filled the void in the lives of these young men? Clearly, it's easier to shake one's head and

"Tsk Tsk" over our troubled society than to show up. I think of all the heartache which would likely have been prevented had there been the positive influence of a strong, willing, relatively healthy father figure in the lives of all these boys.

Every. Single. Day. We see young men who are not doing well in a husband or father role. "Not doing well" is of course, for the most part an understatement. Just recently in an interview I described our community as economically and socially deficient. San Bernardino and the surrounding area is largely comprised of matriarchal, low income single parent families. But stop and think----the men are here as evidenced in the high numbers of pregnant women who come to us for services. Our challenge is how, through this ministry can we encourage a choice for the life of the baby involved in an unplanned pregnancy and then facilitate the building of a family from the broken lives of the parents. We do fairly well reaching out to the women and children since our volunteer base is largely female. However, we have only a little opportunity to encourage and build up a young man. I see this as failure on the part of the Christian community and in turn, this ministry.

Last week a man met with me to discuss my desire to begin a mentoring outreach for our young men. He appeared to be interested in investing his time to move forward---even scheduled another appointment to begin to plan, then he emailed to say he would never work with an organization so focused on women to the exclusion of men. HUH!? WHAT!? The whole point of my repeating the need for men to be involved in this ministry is to enable us to do that which we desire most in a practical way. "Saving Families One Child at a Time!" Men + women + children = Family.

So, I'll say it again and again until I get a bonified, legitimate, from the heart response.

***"God is here. Men, where are you?"***

There's a lot going on and more to come. Visit our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/pregnancyfamily](https://www.facebook.com/pregnancyfamily) or check our website: [www.pregnancyfamily.org](http://www.pregnancyfamily.org).

For Life!

Lisa J Stiefken  
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(And, chief nag)