

THE STOREY STORY

October 2013



PRAISE!

NLB staff attended a women's conference on Sept 26-28 that encouraged and challenged us in some pretty big ways. I had some moments with the Lord that were especially profound, and left the conference rather revved up. On top of that, we were surprised at the conference with a \$5,000 donation. What an unexpected blessing!

PRAYER NEED

Three girls that we're trying to follow up with are weighing heavily on my heart this week. Please pray for re-connection with them. We'll call them Allie, Farra, and Nanette. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts!

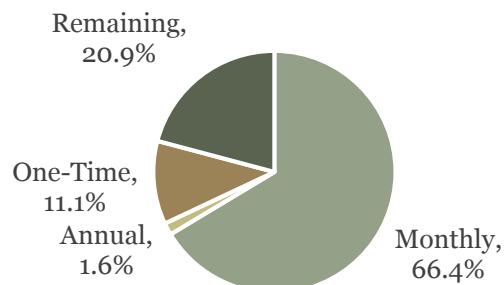


Asher's visit to the farm park. Had to have a little fall fun...

Greetings, dear friends! Hard to believe it's already been a month since my last update, isn't it? Deep breath. It's not quite mid-October. You still have time to pick the candy corn out of your teeth before the Christmas shopping begins. I would be picking candy corn out of my teeth if my dad hadn't just visited and single-handedly eaten all of it... (Love you, Dad!)

HOW'S THE SUPPORT RAISING GOING?

Check it out. As of today, I'm now at 79% of my support goal for this year! I am so thankful! (I would use candy corn colors, but I don't have a piece in front of me to guide color selection. Why? Because my dad ate them all.)



(Still love you, Dad.)

A LITTLE SOMETHING I'M LEARNING

This month, I want to share something a little different. It's not a glamorous rescue story—at least not in the storm-the-strip-club-and-preach-the-gospel sense. It's not a list of prayer requests or an update on what's been happening in the ministry this month. No. Instead, it's a little tidbit about what the Lord has been teaching me this past week as a part of this ministry. I hope it encourages and challenges you as it has me.

The Setup

Last week, I started reading through the gospel of Luke. For some reason, I kept getting stuck on chapter 1, which tells the story of John the Baptist's birth and the angel's visit to Mary in preparation for Jesus' birth.

In this chapter, both Zachariah and Mary receive a visit from the angel Gabriel. In both cases, Gabriel is announcing to them the coming birth of their babies. For Zachariah, it's in response to his and Elizabeth's prayers; for Mary, it's a bit out of the blue. But for each, the angel is essentially bringing something. A promise.



Closing celebration at the women's conference NLB staff attended in Sept. It was quite the celebration!

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The Observation – Part 1

It's interesting. Zachariah and Mary have pretty much the same response--at least verbally--to their promises. But they each get very different reactions from Gabriel.

In Zachariah's case, he essentially asks how a baby is possible, given his and Elizabeth's age. Gabriel responds, "I am Gabriel, man. I stand in the very presence of God, but you don't believe me. Because you don't believe, you're not going to be able to speak for 9 months."

Hmm. What about Mary? She asks basically the same thing: "How is a baby possible since I'm a virgin?" And instead of "How dare you?" she gets an explanation of how it will happen and continued blessing. Why?

The Observation – Part 2

This may seem obvious, but I've never stopped to make this comparison before. Why the different reactions to pretty much the same question?

It seems apparent that the issue was not the question itself. Instead, it must have been the attitude behind the question. I think Mary must have been earnestly and openly asking the question, whereas Zachariah must have been expressing his doubt. And what's maybe more interesting is that while Zachariah probably *knew* he was dealing with an angel (since Gabriel randomly appeared in the Holy of Holies), Mary may not have had quite as much evidence. Who knows? Maybe Gabriel showed up on her doorstep looking like a man but declaring he was an angel. Regardless, the girl had some serious faith.

The Implication

So what was the end result for each? Well...obviously, the promise came to fruition for both, because God's faithfulness to His promises is not contingent on our response or belief. But Zachariah faced a pretty serious consequence: He couldn't speak for 9 months. So what does that really mean?

I'm not sure I fully grasp yet why that was the specific consequence, but here's what I do know: *As a result of his doubt in the promise, his ministry was limited until the promise came to fulfillment.* Just consider...as a priest, he could not speak. He had caused a serious barrier to be placed between himself and what he was called to do.

I think this has enormous implications on us as followers of Christ. I think it has implications on me and on the other NightLight staff. When we, as NightLight, fail to believe in the power of God to bring His promises to fulfillment—promises for His kingdom to come in the strip clubs, in the brothels, in the hearts and minds of men and women embroiled in the sex industry everywhere—how is our own ministry suddenly affected? I can only imagine how it begins to constrain and limit how we live and breathe and move within the ministry--and therefore begins to constrain the fruit that would otherwise be borne.

As you pray for NightLight this month, pray for the Lord to give us great faith in the vision He has given us and the promises He has made. Even when it seems impossible—when we don't see how His promises could ever come about—we want to trust and obey. Please pray for us in that. And I tell you what...I'll do the same for you!

Have a great Halloween!



October gifts for the girls!