



The Storey Story

June 2014

Snapshots

Dear friends,

This month, I want to share some snapshots with you. Snapshots of stories. Snapshots of lives. Snapshots of what this ministry is all about. May these glimpses both bless you and break you. They provide just a taste of the lives of women who desperately need hope and help. Let's pray for them. Let's love them. Let's keep leaning in and pressing on until they've taken hold of the hope that's available to them!

“Jasmine”

Jasmine is ready for change. She's looking at going back to school, looking for other work, and seeking healing for past hurts and family baggage. Jasmine is trying hard to trust God, but the battle out of her current situation is not easy. Bills run high, close family members are dependent upon her for financial assistance, and former “friends” recently betrayed her. Jasmine believes God is for her and is trustworthy, but life is really hard. Bad things keep happening in her family. Friends are scarce. She feels overwhelmed. Priorities compete. She is taking big steps, but the challenges are many. We pray with Jasmine constantly, and we believe God is doing something substantial in her life. But it is not an easy road.

“Sharon”

Sharon is involved with a married man. She greatly desires a man in her life who is responsible and committed to his family. She's knows this man is not that, knows it's not right, and knows she's being manipulated, but she can't seem to stop. Her identity and value are tied to being with a man, and she has never seen or known a committed, selfless relationship. What she doesn't know yet is that she was created for more than this. That the fulfillment she's looking for is found in Jesus, and is far more satisfying. She doesn't believe this yet, but we will continue walking alongside her and speaking it gently to her. We are honored that she opens up to us more than with any other person in her life. We dearly love her.

“Katherine”

Last Friday when we saw Katherine, she started crying immediately. Two months ago, she'd just gotten married. This time, we learned she was already divorced because her husband cheated on her with another woman. In addition, her 2-year old daughter was injured in a propane explosion the previous week. Katherine has medical issues herself, and can't find work because she can't afford childcare. She's desperate for hope and encouragement, and has recently asked

us for help. We are honored to begin building that relationship and eager to offer the hope and help she needs.

“Melanie”

Remember Melanie? She's a girl we are desperately praying for. She wants to transform her life, but is torn about inviting God into that process. Her mom recently sent us a Facebook message, however, that was so encouraging! Here are some highlights...

“Hello...I am the mother of Melanie, one of the girls you have ministered to through going to the strip clubs in Springfield. Her father and I just wanted to say 'Thank You' for reaching out to these girls in a way that they will listen. You have touched our girl in a way that no one has been able to do. We call you our angels in the strip club and praise God for you and your desire to show the love of Christ to these women. Melanie explained to us what you all do. We just wanted to say we are thrilled to see some Light in her life. Thank you for investing in her. You will never know this side of eternity the impact you are having, but we just wanted you to know what a blessing you have been to us and Melanie...and all of us who love her dearly and pray for her daily. Maybe one day... Melanie will be blessing other girls and encouraging them too!”

These precious women are why we do what we do.

Pray!

A few specifics to pray for this month...

- **We're hosting a BBQ!** On June 22, we're having a BBQ with a few friends from one of the clubs in town. We're inviting these friends and their families to spend time with us and our families. Please pray for this time to be filled with great conversation and love.
- **Continue praying for God to bring us men.** We need men who love God, have a heart for protecting and honoring women, and have a heart to see other men brought to freedom. We need men who will become faithful members of our outreach team, and who want to see men in our churches and community transformed. We still need men!
- **Continue praying for our hiring efforts.** We are still praying for an Intervention Coordinator and Restoration Coordinator. Pray for the right candidates to come our way. Pray also for our two recent hires to fundraise quickly.
- **Pray for the girls listed above.** These girls need to know the truth about God, themselves, and their lives. And there's so much involved on the path to healing and stability. Pray for these girls! Pray for the mentors working with them. Pray for wisdom as we seek to connect them with resources to meet very practical needs in their lives.

Thank You

I can do this work because you all are behind me. Thank you. Please push me, prod me, and pray for me. I treasure both encouragement and accountability! Please let me know if you ever have questions.

I am grateful for you!

CONTACT ME

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(From Top to Bottom) Our June outreach gifts: fresh flowers! (2) NLB team members at the 2014 ICAP conference, where a couple hundred practitioners in trafficking/exploitation ministry gathered together for a week in Wisconsin. (3, 4) Asher's first trip to Springfield's Dickerson Park zoo!