



The Storey Story

Aug 2014

Dreaming Big

Earlier this week, I met with a new friend (and NightLight volunteer) who inspired me. This friend and I were talking about her passions—those deeply rooted, God-crafted desires in her heart that she wants to spend her life fighting for.

This friend has two big passions. First, she wants to see men, women, and children rescued from sexual bondage of all kinds, and brought to full restoration. This includes spiritual restoration, where these individuals intimately know and walk with the God of the universe who loves them and gave His life to buy their freedom from sin, bondage, hopelessness, and injustice. And it includes physical restoration, where they are equipped with the know-how, resources, and community needed to get back on their feet in real life and walk out life with God.

She also wants to see the body of Christ joining hands to radically offer this restoration in the community. She wants to see denominations, ministries, and individuals who all know and love

the gospel of Jesus Christ coming together and allowing God to work through them—His body—to deliver this vision of restoration.

"I've been thinking about CBC," she said.* "What are they going to do with that property? There are so many buildings—houses for residential staff. Dorms where people could stay. Offices where ministries like NightLight and Go61 and other ministries could operate. That property is just sitting there, unused. What if that became an entire campus for ministries like this?"

So now she and I are praying. What might God want to do with that property? Could he—would he—dare to have us dream something so big and impossible? Could he—would he—ever dare to make something so extravagant happen? Is that a vision for next year? For 20 years from now? How could that ever happen?

I don't know the answers to those last 3 questions. But I think the answer to the



(Top) A baby shower we threw for two girls from a local club. (Bottom) August outreach gifts! "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" (John 7:37-38)

*Central Bible College, who recently merged with Evangel University and whose campus now sits empty and on the market.

first 2 is a resounding “YES!” Do we serve the God who created the universe or not? The God who did not even spare His own only son—or Himself—to reach His lost children? The God who owns the cattle on a thousand hills? We serve a big God. And He wants to give us big dreams. Because when we dream big, He moves big, and He’s glorified in big ways.

So what am I dreaming for?

I’m dreaming for a transformed culture in Springfield. I’m dreaming for a city where we simply don’t find men, women, or children being prostituted online, or dancing in clubs, or posing for pornography. I’m dreaming for a city where men and women are not seeking the use of another person’s body—whether through pictures or in person—for their own gratification. I’m dreaming for a city where the places that used to house these activities become places where people are raising their hands in worship toward our good, compassionate, powerful God who reaches down and rescues and restores and empowers us to do amazing things for His glory and our delight. I’m dreaming for a city where God has powerfully and miraculously transformed an entire culture through the gospel of Jesus Christ. That’s justice. That’s life as it’s meant to be. That’s the beginning of something eternal.

It happened in Ephesus. Why not in Springfield?

What are you dreaming for…?



Asher is getting so big! First carousel ride at the KC Zoo, and some outdoor fun in the backyard.

Pray

As always, we need your prayer. Here are some specific requests we have right now:

- **Pray for fundraising efforts.** One staff member who has been fundraising just hit the target needed to begin working! Two other staff members are still working toward their targets. Please pray for their patience, diligence, faith, and wisdom in this season. And pray for the Lord to make divine connections for each staff member!
- **Pray for more volunteers.** We currently have 14 open mentor spots! (What?!) We are also dreaming about starting outreach to women who are being sold online. And we’re starting to encounter men in need of mentors, too. Pray for the Lord to send us individuals with a passion for God’s work in this industry.
- **Pray for Christmas outreach.** Yep. We’re already starting preparations for this. We have a need for many churches to partner with us this year, so pray for God’s work in the entire process.
- **Pray for men.** As we grow and begin to move in some new directions, we need men now more than ever. We need men for our prayer team, for various security teams, to lead worship, to minister to men outside the clubs, to mentor other men, and to begin mobilizing other men in the church around the issues of pornography and sex addiction. Pray for the Lord to send us specific men who can lead and minister in so many of these areas.
- **Pray for our mentees.** Always, always be praying for the women (and now men) we are trying to mentor. These men and women are often hungry for us to pursue them, but they have a hard time responding consistently. Many also often remain in (or return to) patterns of poor decision-making and crisis throughout the mentoring process. Our mentors always need wisdom, patience, and love; and our mentees always need God’s hand moving in their lives and hearts. Please keep praying!

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Thank You

Blessings, blessings, blessings on each of you as we begin transitioning from summer to fall. May God be moving in your own hearts and lives, revealing more and more of His passion for you and for His world, and of the glorious riches of His grace.

Thank you for continuing to partner with me in this ministry. I really can’t wait to see what big dreams God fulfills.