



The Storey Story

Oct 2014

Remember “Lindsey?”

If not, go check out my newsletter from last month. Seriously...go skim it again.

Done? Great. Guess what?

Since last month's newsletter, Lindsey has said "Yes!" to Jesus!

How did it happen? My answer to that is: Only God. Up to the day Lindsey made her decision, she was resistant. During a lunch with her the day before it happened, she debated heatedly with a group of ladies about why she couldn't accept Christianity. I personally walked away from that conversation saying to myself, "Lord, only you can draw her. Nothing anyone says can make a difference."

Over the next 24 hours, He worked a miracle in her heart. And since then, here are some of the sweet things we've seen Lindsey post on her Facebook page:

I rededicated my life to God at #dficonf this past weekend. I'm ready to see what my future can be like without all of the

negativity. I'm ready for this direction. I think. (;

(Referring to the conference where she made her decision) *Last day to get the cheapest ticket prices for next year. If you do anything for yourself, do this. :)*

Love my beautiful sis! She's an incredible example of a Jesus lover doing it right. We had a truly life changing experience this past weekend when I rededicated my life to God. I am so blessed to know women like her... I want to be like the amazing women in my Christ-following family. I want to be a #gamechanger.

I burst into tears every time I read that last one. Because here's the thing about Lindsey: We know she IS a game changer. Ever since we met her, we've said to each other, "If she ever chooses Jesus, she'll be a force for the kingdom. She will be all in. She will make a difference."

Well, guess what? She chose Jesus, and now the game is about to change. PRAISE GOD!

Want to Help NightLight Branson this Christmas?

We're looking for churches, small groups, and individuals to help us collect items in preparation for our big Christmas outreach.

We still have items we need groups to claim. Let me know if you want to help!





(Above) Designed for Life Women's conference, with over 7,000 women! NightLight took 4 girls, 2 of whom made decisions to follow Christ. (Right) My dad and I spent a little time goofing off at Nelson Art Gallery in KC, MO. I think it's a good look.



How You Can Pray for Me?

Sometimes, I feel desensitized in my job. Over time, the brokenness, the abuse, the hopelessness I see becomes normal. It becomes common and inevitable. And sometimes, that makes it easy for me to consider it my "work," removed from the rest of my life. Work is just work. In other words, I work with the women I work with, and then I go home to my comfortable house, my loving husband, my privileged family, and I enjoy great blessing.

I am so thankful for the ways God has blessed me and my family—physically, financially, relationally. But over the past couple of weeks, God has been challenging me with a fresh reminder of how real the pain, loss, and brokenness is outside of my blessed bubble. It's real, it's present, and it's urgent, even in the moments when I'm not physically or mentally engaged with it.

There've been several moments in the past few weeks when a strange juxtaposition has happened. The reality of my "work" world has collided with the reality of my non-work world. Let me give you an example.

Last week, I was in Asher's room, rocking him to sleep. My arms were wrapped tightly around him, my cheek pressed against the top of his head. I was whispering a prayer over him and just oozing love for him, when all of a sudden, I was struck with a thought. What if Asher never got to experience being rocked to sleep in a parent's arms? What if he never got to experience the safety and warmth provided by that embrace?

What if the arms wrapped around him were arms that—at other times—abused him? What if those arms brought a twisted blend of love and warmth, along with cruelty,

disgust, and pain? What if he was caught in a nightmare of attachment to a parent (or other figure) who sometimes loved and sometimes abused?

The truth is, there are many, many children out there who live in that place right now. Children who will grow up to be the women that my ministry works with—women with a warped view of loving relationships. And they live in that place every moment. Their plight is devastating. It's horrific. And it's inescapable.

Unless Someone intervenes.

Over the past couple of weeks, the Lord has spoken to me in these difficult moments. *Your life is connected to theirs*, he's saying. *Even in those moments when you've taken a break from the work you're doing to go home and live your own life, I haven't taken a break. I see each child. I see each moment of suffering. I see each one who doesn't get to take a break from the pain and step into a loving, safe, comfortable place. I see it always, and I want you to see it always, too.*

The truth is, God calls us to rest at times. He wants us to enjoy the beauty and provision He's given us. As a human, I need the time away from the darkness to rest and recharge before entering back into it. But I think God is challenging me that even as I break away from the work for a breath of fresh air, I am to be always aware, always compassionate, and always broken. Broken for the lost, for the suffering, for the abused.

Brokenness isn't pleasant. It isn't easy. But it's necessary. Because the moment I stop being broken over this work is the moment I

lose my sense of urgency, and the moment I lose my connection to the very heart of God.

So please pray for me. Pray that I will never, ever become desensitized to the people who are abused, broken, or held captive in any form. Pray that I will never, ever lose the sense of urgency that God calls us to in taking the good news of Jesus Christ and being the hands and feet of Jesus to others. Pray that I would be consistently, repeatedly broken over the things that break the heart of God, and that I would be consistently, repeatedly filled up with confidence in His power to transform what has been abused, oppressed, and broken into something beautiful, free, purposed, and whole.

We don't just serve a God who sees and weeps. We serve a God who acts and saves. A God who transforms. And a God who calls us to walk by His side and do the same.

So pray for me. And I'll do the same for you.

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Thank You

Thank you for your giving, your prayers, and your encouragement. Though it may not feel very glamorous, it has a direct impact on this ministry and our ability to accomplish every last piece of programming we do. So thank you. For being broken enough to engage.