



Grace and peace through our Lord Jesus Christ! This month's newsletter has been difficult for me (Cheryl) to begin. I've been pondering a question that has been asked several times over the last few months, more recently just yesterday. As I was in the garden this morning, some insights came to me. I processed with my husband, Brian, and want to share these ponderings with you.

First, I will begin with the question I was asked—How many women have left the clubs over the last 12 years that we have been relating to the girls? The answer to that question is I don't know exactly...through ongoing relationships, probably 15-20.

I must say that this question bothers me for several reasons and causes me to ask my own questions. Why do we feel the need to quantify God's work in people's lives? Why are results so important to us? So, I ask more questions as I ponder in the garden.

What is mission? Why do we share Jesus with people? What compels missionaries to continue sharing the gospel for 25 to 50 years without a convert? If we can't quantify God's working in people's lives (ie. people choosing to follow Jesus, girls choosing to leave the clubs), does that mean He isn't working or that the people we are relating to aren't worth our continued time and effort? Do numbers bring legitimacy to effort?

Here are my ponderings from my morning in the garden.

Mission is sharing the good news, God's great love for the people He created. His heart has always been to be in relationship with us, to walk in the garden with us in the cool of the day. His end goal is to dwell with us again. Mission is planting seeds and trusting God to water and bring about harvest. His time, His way.

Jesus' mission has always been to reveal the heart of the Father, His plan and purpose, to the world. God SO LOVED the world that He sent His son. It is His kindness that leads us to repentance. Jesus touched, healed, spoke with, invited Himself to dinner with people who were outcasts—the blind, lepers, children, women. Who are the outcast people God has placed in your life and desires to touch?

The girls in the clubs are fringe people, the least of these, a mission field, unreached, if you will. Many of them have never heard the good news of Jesus and/or have never received unconditional love from believers...or anyone else for that matter. In fact, many of them have been hurt by people in the church. They are even on the fringe of society, usually working more than an hour from where they live, giving themselves stage names, different costumes and creating personas so others do not know who they truly are...hiding themselves.

Jesus challenges us to minister to the least of these—to feed, clothe, visit those imprisoned, care for the sick, give drink to those who are thirsty. We accept His challenge. That's why we are walking through whatever doors God is opening, increasing monthly groceries, meal outreaches, gift bags, and connecting the girls with resources.

Jesus loves them. Jesus sees them. Jesus died for them. Jesus would visit them. Jesus would speak to them. Jesus would offer them living water. And so we join Him on mission. We keep our message simple so He can do the powerful work of changing people's minds, hearts, and lives and bringing about life more abundantly and freedom. We desire to be His hands, feet, and words of life, love, and grace. May His life, love, and grace shout louder than anything else in their lives.

Do I want to see the girls leave the clubs? Absolutely.

But...I desire for them to encounter Jesus and His love more. The more they experience Jesus the more they will choose a life that brings eternal life.

God's moving and working is mystery. We rest in His being God.

To Him be all glory, honor, and praise!





Responses from the girls--

- "(Providing groceries) is the biggest thing you can do right now to help the girls."
- "Thanks to the church ladies for all they do for the girls."

Monthly Outreach—

- Thurs, September 5, 12, and 26—**Grocery Pick Up from WordFM (Blessings of Hope) and WEC (World Evangelization for Christ)**
- Thurs, September 19—**SOL Prayer Time**
- Fri and Sat, September 20 and 21—**Meal Outreach**

Prayer and Praise—

- **Homeless Women**—It has come to our attention recently that there are at least 6 girls at one club who are homeless. Please pray for their safety, for housing provision, and for God to intervene on their behalf. Safe, affordable housing continues to be an ongoing challenge for the girls.
- **Upcoming Events**—Please pray for us as we prepare for upcoming speaking engagements and community events. We are excited for these opportunities to share Springs of LIFE with others.
- **Wednesdays/Thursdays—Prayer Counseling**—Cheryl continues to offer prayer counseling for the girls on Wednesdays and Thursdays. She has decided to alternate the days to provide more options for more girls who want to meet.
- **Support Group**—We will be moving ahead to provide Support Group for the girls on Wednesday mornings this fall. Pray for the girls who have expressed interest.
- **Monthly Giving**—Thank you to those who have already committed to giving monthly, yearly, and sponsoring gift bags. Please continue to pray for God's provision of 60 people to commit to giving \$65 each month. This financial commitment allows us to take the next step in finding a house to rent for LIFE House.

Community and Church Events-

- ***September 18**—Sharing at Youth Group in Chambersburg
- ***September 21**—Sweatshirt of HOPE Music Fest
- ***September 23**—Souderton Telford Professional Business Women's Meeting
- ***October 5**—Women's Brunch—Souderton Mennonite
- ***October 12**—Volunteer Training

Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement. May we be Jesus to those on the fringe, the least of these.

Joining together on mission,

Cheryl and the Springs of LIFE Team

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Financial Gifts: Give online at www.springsoflife.life or make your check out to "Springs of LIFE"

