

## Lisa Whelchel - E-letter

February 2009

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**Come  
See  
Me!**



**February 19-21  
Atlanta, GA**

**March 7  
Fresno, CA**

**March 13-14  
Kansas City, KS (WOF)**

**March 20-21  
Raleigh, NC**

**March 27-28  
Shreveport, LA (WOF)**

**April 4  
Parkersburg, WV**

**April 17-18  
Lafayette, LA**

**April 24-25  
Columbus, OH (WOF)**

**April 30 - May 1  
Des Moines, IA (WOF)**

**May 8  
Jacksonville, FL**

**May 29-30  
Spokane, WA (WOF)**

**For more information  
on times and locations  
[click here!](#)**

Remember me? Shortish with blondish hair and brownish eyes. Used to be an actress then used to be a full time mom then used to be a writer. Is any of this ringing a bell? How about this...once upon a time I wrote a daily journal then it was a weekly blog then it was a monthly E-letter and now it is a yearly Christmas letter. How about we start from scratch and let me tell you a little bit about myself today.



I have been married for over twenty years to my husband, Steve, who gets more handsome every day. I have a son, Tucker, who is in college in California. I have two daughters, a senior, Haven, and, junior, Clancy. We have a precious Havanese dog, "Donut." I have spent the last two years reading, doing nothing, and having lunch. Seriously. When I withdrew from my crazy busy life two years ago to go on a sabbatical, my desire was to experience intimacy with: God, myself, and others.

So...I do nothing and in the stillness, God shows up and I enjoy His intimate presence. Then I pick up one of any of the five books I'm currently reading and learn about my true, authentic self and dare to accept my strengths and weaknesses in an intimate embrace. Then I go to lunch with any of a treasure trove of women the Lord has brought into my life and delight in discovering the gift of intimate friendship.

Some of you may be saying, "Must be nice..." Well, yes, it is. But it hasn't been without cost. As you can imagine, although I still spoke 35-40 times a year, not writing dealt quite a blow to the budget. There was also a certain amount of comfort that came from staying so busy that I didn't have to deal with stuff that likes to creep up and out in the wee hours of the night or still moments of reflection. And, please hear me when I confess that going through junior high in your forties is not pretty! Having missed out on a traditional school experience, I have learned about female friendships in the most sputtering, awkward and painful of ways.

## *What God is Teaching Me*

Oh, but God does exceedingly above and beyond anything we ask or think. That is a line from the passage in Ephesians 3:16-21 that has been my "North Star" on this wild and glorious journey I've been on to experience the love of Christ that passes knowledge. How I wish I could even begin to express the deliciousness of His ever-pursuing affection and faithfulness.

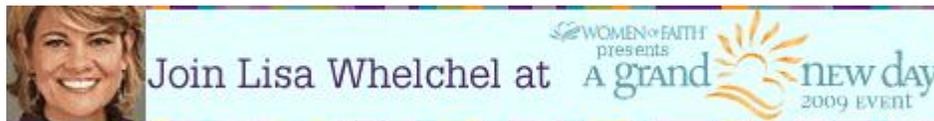
As crazy as it seemed to "drop out of life" for two years, in God's economy the time was multiplied back exponentially. I was cautioned that to stop writing books, blogs, magazine columns, etc, would be ministry/career suicide. Must mind the Big "Mo" (momentum!) I'm sure that is very sound advice but God doesn't always make sense. As it turns out, by living in God's upside-down kingdom, I'm about to have the best year of ministry of my life!



Guess what?! I've been invited to join the Women of Faith team for 2009. I'm beyond words excited. From the time I gave my heart to Jesus as a ten-year-old girl, I knew that my life was to be about telling as many people as possible about the love of God. Well, this year will be like playing in the World Series every weekend. I will get to tell tens of tens of thousands of women about how much Jesus loves them.

And, in addition to that, I will get to hang out with some of the most amazing women on the planet. As God would have it, I became friends with the "Porch Pals" over the past year in a non ministry-related environment...we happen to live within 20 minutes of each other and I made one friend who introduced me to another and then another and now I'm traveling with them. Is God cool, or what?!

Let's keep this chain of friendship going...come join us at a Women of Faith event this year! Click on this banner link and find a city near you, gather a group of your friends together and make a girls getaway weekend out of it. I can't express enough how important nurturing our relationships are...with God and our girlfriends. Please, seriously consider doing this for yourself.



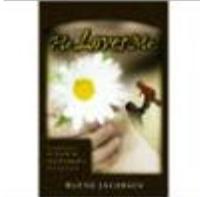
*You've Got to Read, Watch, Surf, or Listen to This!*

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I have listened the digital grooves off of [Shannon Wexelberg's CDs](#) this year. The musical arrangements are lush, the lyrics deeply penetrating, and her voice carries you to the center of the soul. She is an anointed worship leader and as you listen you will find yourself in the peaceful presence of the Father.

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I read "The Shack" and loved it! When digging deeper into the website, I discovered Wayne Jacobsen and a set of messages he recorded on living in the love of the Father. My life was transformed. [He Loves Me](#) is the distillation of that life-changing series. Every once in a while I will read through my underlinings and let this radical truth seep deeper into my thirsty heart

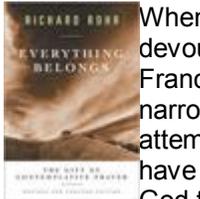
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[Kari Jobe](#) just released a new CD, and I downloaded it on the first day it was released. I'm sure it is as fabulous as her first one but I'm recommending the one I've been listening to nonstop since I got it last year. Oh, her tender voice and lyrics make me cry every time I play it...good tears, though...cleansing ones...ones that tell Jesus how much I adore Him. If you need a good cry or a good lovefest with the Lord then you'll want to check out this CD. Especially the songs, "My Beloved" and "The More I Seek You."

Mmmmm.....

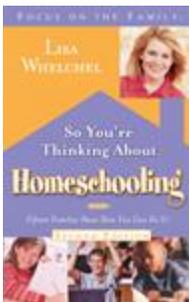
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When I find an author I enjoy then I buy every book they have ever written and devour them all. That makes it very difficult to recommend only one book by Franciscan priest, Richard Rohr. But, I don't want to overwhelm you so I've narrowed it down to [Everything Belongs](#). This book is as good a book as any to attempt to describe a bit of the journey I've been on recently. So, if anything I have written lately resonates with your desire to slow down and simply "Be" with God then you may want to begin with this book.

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## *Snippets & Smidgens & Specials*



This is the time of year when many families are thinking about school choices for next year. If you've ever had a fleeting thought about homeschooling or if you are a homeschooling veteran and are thinking you may want to try a new method next year then [So, You're Thinking About Homeschooling](#) is an easy read and will help you make whatever decision is right for your family.

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## Peek Into My Journal



I haven't written a journal entry lately but if you haven't visited my website lately, and you have a few minutes to kill, then you may want to surf around. I would especially ask you to prayerfully consider joining my [Cyber Prayer Warrior](#) database. As excited as I am about this upcoming year, I am also very nervous. I feel so far out of my league and so inadequate for this task. If you feel like the Lord has given you a ministry of intercessory prayer, would you consider joining my prayer team?

I have also added a new album to the [My Scrapbooks](#) section of my website. It is entitled, "A Week in My Life in 2005." I created it when I took a class by Ali Edwards at a Creating Keepsakes University event. It was so much fun and I would never have been able to be this creative or artistic on my own. I'm so glad I capture an everyday kind of week in my life for posterity.



I'm sorry, but if you've changed your email address in the past two years, or are planning to do so, then our database simply deletes your old account. If you wish to continue receiving E-letters then you will need to sign up again by [clicking here](#). (I can safely promise you that I won't overload your InBox!)

Sweet Jesus, thank You for the gift of Your presence. Thank You that times of loneliness can be "gardens of solitude." Thank you that storms are occasions to learn to dance in the rain. Thank you that loss of economic security can be an opportunity for You to turn our world upside-down and for us to start living abundantly in Your kingdom within. Thank You for servants who write books and record music out of the brokenness of their lives that mend our fractured souls. Thank You for friends to talk to, laugh with, pray for (and ones who are patient with my sporadic E-letters.) Thank You for the privilege of ministering with Women of Faith this year. My prayer is that you will make a way for all my friends to come and let this blessing overflow on to them, too. With a heart of peace and gratitude, I love you. Amen

If you have a friend who would enjoy receiving this E-letter click the follow link and we will forward

it to them.  [send this to a friend](#)

Lisa Whelchel - E-Letter

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