

Lisa Whelchel - E-letter

July 2009

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Hello friends,

I've been thinking about you a lot lately. Since many of you have been so patient with me these last two years of virtual silence, I couldn't wait to tell you that my writing sabbatical is officially over. I am now writing a new book! So far, I've gone through three different titles, "*Friendship: Lessons I Should've Learned in Junior High*," "*The Friendship Connection*," and "*I Need Friends*." Who knows what the ultimate title will be, but you get the idea. This book will be about the journey I've been on recently and how friends have played such a pivotal role in what I am learning. You may recall that my reason for the sabbatical was to allow the time necessary to experience intimacy with God, myself, my family and friends. I will share more details in future E-letters, in the meantime, please pray for me. I feel nervous and out-of-shape as I begin the writing process.



What God is Teaching Me

One of the most exciting experiences I've had recently is my trip to Rwanda with some of my Women of Faith friends. I have so many stories I would like to share with you but I've chosen this one because it so succinctly illustrates the beyond-words work that World Vision is doing all across the globe.

There once was a woman named, Beatrice. Her husband was in prison for killing Tutsis in the genocide. She lived on some land at the top of a beautiful hill but the rains were killing her and her daughter. They lived under a tarp and it was not sufficient shelter to protect them. One day, she heard that World Vision was coming to the village and looking for "the poorest of the poor." She signed up and the community chose her daughter to be registered to be sponsored. Somebody sponsored the little girl. The support money bought them food and World Vision determined that their most dire need was shelter so they decided to build them a small house. They even hired Beatrice to help build it. With the money that she made, she bought a couple of chickens. Those chickens laid eggs and she fed her family and sold the rest of the eggs. With the money she made, she bought two pigs, who quickly reproduced and she sold them at market. With that money, she bought a cow. She used the milk to feed her family and sold the rest to buy a bull. They produced more cows and she used the manure to fertilize the ground so she could plant a garden. Now, she is organizing a co-op with other women in the village. Food is being grown to feed and sustain multiple families all because one person chose to sponsor one child. Isn't that incredible? Until I saw it firsthand, I didn't know that changing the life of one child, transforms the whole family, which affects the whole village, which makes a difference in the nation. One person truly can change the world. It is hard to imagine unless you've seen it in person, but if you could just take my word for it and [click on this link](#) and explore the possibility that this may be the opportunity you've been looking for to make a difference on this planet.

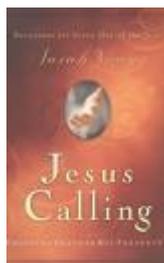
You've Got to Read, Watch, Surf, or Listen to This!

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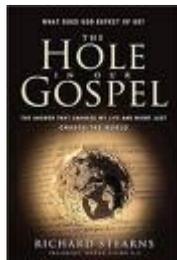
Yes, I Twitter! And I LOVE it. I have been twittering since last summer, even before @aplusk and @oprah. I have a handful of friends who are the all-time funniest Tweeters in the Twitterverse. For the first year, I kept my tweets, permission-protected, with the exception of immediate family and friends who get my sense of humor. Just last month, I decided to share "what I am doing" in 140 characters-or-less with 140 characters-or-more. So, if you are a character and can handle my warped whereabouts, then [click this link](#), search for @LisaWhelchel, and follow me...where I don't know, but we'll have fun getting there.

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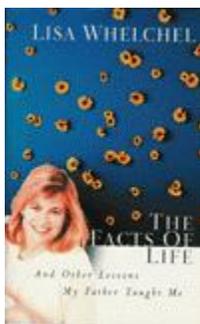
I can not believe that I haven't recommended "Jesus Calling" before this E-letter! I have read it every morning for the last two years. I have read hundreds of books on my current journey, but none has changed my life as dramatically or consistently as this little devotional. If I could beg you to buy a book it would be this one. I need to renew my mind daily about God's lavish love, His sovereign moments, the urgency of stillness, the worship in gratitude and an overflow of peace. I have given this book away to all my friends. I wish I could send it to each of you. The best I can do is [make this link easy to click on](#).

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In light of my recent trip to Africa, I'm sure you can imagine why I so highly recommend the book, "The Hole in Our Gospel," by World Vision president, Rich Stearns. I was so stingingly convinced and hopefully encouraged by this life-altering book. He has delightfully woven his own personal story with hard-to-believe true stories of vulnerable children. He is able to include incredibly un-boring statistics on the same page as anointed urgings from Scripture and the Spirit. If you have ever thought to yourself, "something is missing. I want to do something but I don't even know where to begin." then [this is the book](#) your spirit has been looking for.

Snippets & Smidgens & Specials



If you're looking for an easy, enjoyable summer-reading book, then may I ever-so-humbly recommend my autobiography. It is chock-full of stories from my life spanning my childhood through behind-the-scenes "[Facts of Life](#)" sneak peeks, to the whirlwind two-week courtship (after two-year friendship) engagement, and into early difficult years of marriage and trials of going from Hollywood to a life of stay-at-home mom to three kids in diapers. You can finish this in a few afternoons by the pool and then pass it along to a friend. (Although, if you have asked me to personally autograph it then you may want to keep it...it could get you at least 25 cents more on ebay.)

Come See Me!



I am having the time of my life traveling and ministering with Women of Faith. I so want you to come see me! It is amazing how every weekend God shows up through simple, honest stories, recharging laughter, and cleansing tears. I know, as women, we so often put ourselves at the bottom of the priority list of people and things to take care of. But, trust me, if you make the sacrifice of time and money to get to a WOF weekend, you will have so much to give to your loved ones out of the overflow of all that you have received in these two jam-packed days. Do this for yourself. Do it for your family and friends. At least click on this link and see if I'm going to be anywhere near where you (or one of your best girlfriends) live. By the way, if you use the code "Lisa" when registering then you can get \$10 off of the event price!



Peek Into My Journal

I've actually updated my "Coffee Talk" (which is now called, "Lisa's Blog Thoughts.") Click on the pictures below to read my daily journal entries from my trip to Rwanda. I had such a wonderful time, I'd love to "take you back with me."



[February 27, 2009](#)



[February 28, 2009](#)



[March 2, 2009](#)



[March 3, 2009](#)

I decided to end with a "TwitterPrayer" in 140 characters or less:

@God, thank U! I love the gift of connection. I want 2 help the poor. I'm glad my story is yours. What a trip. Send my friends 2 WOF. I love U.

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



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