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Visit www.SarahsTent.com for ideas, resources & networking.

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Heeding "The Call"

The first quickening moments when you realize, "It's time"

What was it that stirred the soul while deep in slumber? Swelling with startling clarity, rising within one's unconscious soul until bed-covers are thrown to the side, discharging the slumberer to sharp wakefulness, heart pounding, keenly aware that each breath drawn in had a purpose ... there *was* a plan after all. Life finally made sense.

Standing under a steamy hot shower the mind searches what the heart has always known.

The Call. You know the one. It spoke to you as a child and as a child you may have announced to your world what *The Call* was ... and maybe people laughed or maybe they even scolded ...

Nevertheless, you knew "*it*" was there ... calling you. Now, on this particular morning, you are reintroduced with sharp clarity to "*The Call.*" Slowly a smile spreads across your face as you rub the soap into a frothy lather. "It's Time."

The beat of your heart quickens, causing you to think that it will burst with the reality of it all. Phrases, words, events, people in your life, talents,

skills, experiences and past dreams flood your thoughts, suddenly making sense in how each piece fits into the scheme of things.

Increasing passion stirs a hunger and a yearning so great that it almost makes you physically ill. Time is wasting, there's work to be done!

Adrenalin rushing, heart aching, *The Call* urges you to take a risk, to pay a price. Perhaps a price so dear as to change everything that defines your life at this moment in time. Changing relationships, livelihood, and workplace.

Everything familiar and comfortable becomes unacceptable and maddening.

The Call never leaves or lays silent for long. It peppers our

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Shannon Parish, Founder

Welcome to Joy in the Kitchen

A newsletter sponsored by Sarah's Tent

Years ago, during one of the darkest seasons in my life, I met someone who became my catalyst for massive change in not only my thinking and self esteem, but in my future choices.

With a loving simplicity and the most beautiful smile I've ever seen, Merrilee Gunderson invited me into her humble country kitchen. While our children played outside, we chatted over cups of tea accompanied by either homemade brownies or fresh farm eggs provided by the clucking chickens in Merrilee's backyard. (My son loved the goat's milk she offered which I passed up out of being chicken to even try it. *(No pun intended, and yes, she had goats too!)*)

As we talked, laughed and prayed, my burdens grew lighter and lighter while my courage grew stronger and stronger. Just having a friend who accepted me and loved me unconditionally was enough to give me the strength to go on.

It is with this in mind that **Joy in the Kitchen** was created. We may not be able to sit together over a cup of tea, but we can share our thoughts and experiences through written word.

The next several issues will reflect thoughts on the call of God in our lives. As I continue to build my own home business (*I'm a cartoonist too*) I continually run into people who have long forgotten what stirred their hearts and minds. They've lost the ability to set goals and are afraid to dream. That's like saying, "Sick-em!" to someone who lives to encourage others.

As you read the next few pages, allow your mind to wander back to a time when you dared to dream and if you already have a dream, allow yourself to dream even bigger!

Per request, the newsletter is laid out in a format that will allow you to print it, share it and even punch holes in the left so that you may keep it in a three ring binder. Enjoy ...

I love having you in our tent,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon".

My Special Thanks ...

If it had not been for the continued, loving support of two women in particular, Sarah's Tent may not have been able to continue.

As we all know, life happens. During my two year sabbatical from actively attending to Sarah's Tent on a daily basis, two women held the tent flaps open with their encouragement and financial support.

Each time I received a phone call, or a check in the mail, I heard the words, "We believe in Sarah's Tent and what you are doing. We believe in the women."

**My deepest thanks to
Martha Fox
and Kristy Smith**

Continued from page 1

speech and drives daily choices without our even knowing it. It is so familiar to us that we've become adept at ignoring its presence.

However, *The Call* refuses to be ignored and will occasionally rise to stir the soul, challenge the mind and thoughts ... prick us to make a choice. Will it be embraced? Or will it be purposely stuffed down, covered with reasonings and excuses why following it would be not only inconvenient, it would be quite impossible ... preposterous even!

Grandiose thoughts, such as *The Call* brings to mind, *should* be suppressed. Who could be so proud - so arrogant that she should desire to change the world? What would people think? What would they say?

"... a yearning so great that it almost makes you physically ill."

The Call never sleeps. It began with a Word spoken from the mouth of the Most High God. It is a divine destiny so massive and great that only God Almighty could have placed it within a mere human being with the belief that all things are possible. After all, it is His intent to confound the wise with foolish things that He may be glori-

**"YOU
are the
Solution to
someone else's
Problem."**

fied. Who else but God can actually change the world?

So tender is *The Call* that one's heart will long for its fulfillment and grieve at its loss. If left unfulfilled, *The Call* will heave with never-ending sorrow deep within the soul that may cause deep depression, mental torment and even death.

"That same knowing will give strength to do what one would never have imagined she could do"

The Call requires a sacrifice of oneself, yet in return, amplifies all of the things that constitute life and wholeness to such an extent that even the stars in heaven stand in wonder at how an Almighty God could change the course of the world with just one ... human being.

Yielding to this 'knowing of purpose' will cause people to do strange and bizarre things. Things like leaving their home and country, family and friends in order to work on the streets of a poverty-stricken third world country where disease, filth and hopelessness are everywhere.

That same knowledge will give strength to do what one would never have imagined she could do, and will empower her with faith and courage to carry on when others quit and give up the fight.

"One cannot heed *The Call* when one is pre-occupied by endless interruptions and knee-jerk reactions."

You will know when someone has heeded *The Call* because of the focus of their thoughts, their words and purposeful steps. You'll see the sly smile cross their face when something is said that confirms what they already knew.

By the look in their eye, you'll know *The Call* has filled them with such expectation and purpose that they will stop at nothing to see it through.

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The Call must move with the supporting legs of dreams and passion. Without dreams, one would never envision the end results (the essence of faith). Without passion, the decision and commitment to pursue regardless of cost, would never be made.

Without passion, the commitment to pursue the end results, no matter what the cost, would never happen.

It was Christ's dream for the salvation of all mankind that gave Him the passion to endure scoffing, abuse, accusations, pain and torture unto death in order to gain the desired results.

Who would have believed that the young boy who stood in the temple and instructed the religious leaders so long ago was in fact the Son of God who had come to take away the sins of the world?

Ted Haggard, Senior Pastor of New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado says, "When we stand before the throne of God for judgment, we will be judged upon what we were *CALLED* to do, not on what we did."



Heeding The Call

by Cathy Fett

It has been that fleeting reality that has tormented me for many years. I think deep down we all know that that which is planted deep in our heart is from God, and somewhere in the great tomorrow He will want a return on His investment. When I stand before Him will He say "Well done, good and faithful servant."?

Life presents many objections to *The Call*. But God has equipped us with all that we need to heed it. He has given us the right personality, the right talents, the right giftings and believe it or not, the right parents, children and spouse.

Seeing a woman walking in her call can be one of the most powerful experiences in your lifetime. You will never forget that woman who stands erect, walks with purpose and grace, talks with confidence and clarity, looks you straight in the eye and invites you to get a little closer so she can whisper her victory mantra into your ear. Does this woman challenge you or intimidate you? What then will you do when you stand before Our Father?

God is calling you...today. He anxiously waits as he extends his hand to you, inviting you to join the other women in your life in the dance of a lifetime.

Listen to Him as He calls your name, as He shows you every miracle He has set before you, waiting for you to say "Here I am!" or "Choose me!" What a party He has planned, as you make your way to the throne room, a bit tattered and worn but radiant with satisfaction knowing you have heeded *The Call*.

What is it in your life? To write? To sing? To dance? To teach? To invent? To lead? To inspire? To paint? To embrace? To love? What is it that God has called you to do? What has He placed within you that will bring light to my world? What piece of my victory do you hold?

Giving Voice

by Carol Kirkwood

First you hear the beat and melody, then the words enter your heart and mind, carried by that wonderful beat. Long after the music has stopped, the words echo in your mind. *The Call*, sung by Anointed is definitely one of my favorites and an excellent tool to give voice to The Call that is in your own heart.

The Call

It was on a day like no other
 Seeking your face when I discovered
 My life was no longer my own, but yours
 Then I heard you say, "Go and tell them
 To open your heart, let me in and I will supply your every need"
 Then I cried, "Lord, I don't know if I can do it"
 "You will find your strength in me. Only believe"
 Then I said, "What if I fail? I just couldn't take it"
 He said, "I have given you my ability"

Chorus:

For the sake of the call
 I am laying down my all
 No turning back
 Moving straight ahead
 I'm on the right track
 And it's all for the sake of the call
 Sister, let me encourage your heart
 Brother, leave doubt behind, stay your part
 Know that He's with you, yes, He's there all the time
 You may feel like you can't go on any longer
 Though you are weak, remember he's stronger
 Through Him you can do most anything
 You might cry, "Lord I don't know if I can do it"
 You will find your strength in Him, only believe
 You might say, "What if I fail? I just couldn't take it.
 He has given you the ability

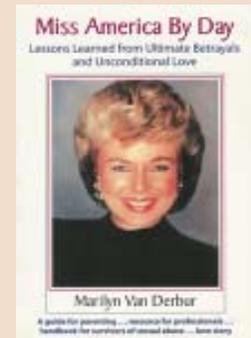
Chorus

Daily I press toward the mark for the prize
 Of the high calling of God in Jesus our Lord

Lyrics sung by Anointed

Purchase the CD by going to <http://sarahstent.com/music.htm>

RECOMMENDED READING



Miss America by Day by Marilyn Van Derbur

Review

by Shannon Parish

One of the most profound books I've ever read. It's time to stop sweeping incest and sexual abuse under the rug! Marilyn's personal story and vital insights at the end of the book are life changing. A must for anyone who serves people or who is an incest or sexual abuse survivor.

Heeding *The Call*, Marilyn has turned her sorrow and terror-filled experiences into healing revelations for those who are survivors of incest and sexual abuse while educating those who support them.

You can purchase her book off of the Sarah's Tent web site by going to <http://sarahstent.com/books.htm>.

Visit Marilyn's web site:
www.missamericabyday.com

Inside the Tent ...

Blogs

It is here that we can communicate with you often in a fun and informal way through web-logs (blogs)

Joy in the Kitchen

Written in a format that you can pass along, or print to share and keep, the JITK is free to subscribers and filled with encouragement and hope.

Networking

We love helping you find your way to as many resources and ministries as possible. You'll find other web sites for pastors wives and ministry women by clicking on the Shepherdess with the sheep on the home page of Sarah's Tent at <http://sarahstent.com>

You will also find helpful links, articles, retreat and seminars listed for your convenience. If it supports your call - we'll gladly share!

eCommerce & Business

Beginning with recommended music and books, you will find a growing eCommerce site to help you earn money for your church, mission or personal finances.

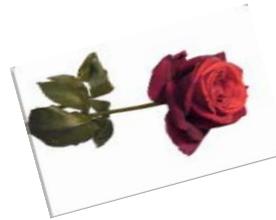
Behind the Tent Flaps ...

Shannon Parish, founder of Sarah's Tent, illustrates your potential and as a cartoonist and illustrator, loves to support people in pursuing their dreams - especially beginning artists, both young and old.

Cathy Fett is an Administrative wonder as well as a prolific business woman who loves to mentor single mothers and post abortive women.

Carol Kirkwood is a archivist of the highest order. As a singer she gives voice to those who cannot speak in soothing melodies, as a psalmist, she sings words of encouragement and peace. As a librarian, she has been a God-send when it comes to organizing and keeping alive the dreams and visions of others.

You can read more about them by visiting their bios on <http://sarahstent.com>



Two Women Who Have Heeded *The Call* ...

Widows Welfare Association of India

Ruth Singson has a vision to purchase a couple more acres of land in order to build a working chicken farm. This farm will not only provide food and income to the widows and orphans that she ministers to in India, it will restore self esteem and support to these beaten, forgotten and displaced women.

You can read more about Ruth, a widow herself and the sacrificial love she has for India's castaways by visiting <http://widowswelfareassociation.com>. Please help her buy the land she needs and help build the chicken farm!

For Kids Alone

Nancy Clark has a big vision for one woman. As the Founder of "For Kids Alone", Nancy's passion is to gather the resources, finances and people to help orphans in third world countries who are not supported by large ministries, but who are being tended to by missionaries and people who might be otherwise forgotten.

You can sign up for her newsletter to learn more about what you can do to help in her efforts by visiting her web site at: <http://forkidsalone.org>