



Oct. 2013

Dear Friends,

We are on the last week of another Healing Intensive and what a joy it is! Each group of ladies is amazing. And what a pleasure it is to get to witness the many healings, deliverances and miracles that take place day after day. I thank God for making it possible for us to reach out to so many with His love and freedom. There's no place I'd rather be and nothing I'd rather be doing.

This past Saturday we celebrated a birthday for one of our girls who turned 23. This was her first birthday party and boy does the farm know how to party! After several days of cloudy skies, her day began with the sun shining full and bright (She had prayed for a sunny day because cloudy days are so difficult for her). When she sat up in bed she was amazed to find the floor covered with cards written and secretly placed there by the dozen or so girls living in the house with her.

After reading her cards, she came to the Grace House where we made a special breakfast for her—all her favorites: cheesy grits, crispy bacon and orange flavored cinnamon rolls. Gifts were given and received with much joy. We no sooner finished cleaning up breakfast dishes when it was time to start preparing for the lunch. All of the women on the farm joined us for a fondue party. We eagerly dipped fruit, meat, bread and veggies into chocolate and cheese sauces while lavishing our love on the birthday girl.

As the birthday candles were lit, we sang the happy birthday song sung to her in 4 different languages! (I tried my best to sing it in tongues but it didn't happen.) Amongst much laughter more gifts were unwrapped. Little did she know that while she was having breakfast the girls were decorating the Father's House for the party that would continue after lunch—a party that lasted to midnight!

From sun-up to well past sundown, this beautiful, wonderful young lady was celebrated in a way that she should have been from the day of her birth. And that is what Our Father's Farm is all about! Giving and receiving love in an extravagant, unconditional way—which is just like our Father!

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Oct. 17 marks Harvest Home's 6<sup>th</sup> year on Our Father's Farm. Little did Danny and I know that God would answer the desires of our hearts in such a big way. He truly has blessed us with exceedingly, abundantly beyond all we could ask or imagine! We wake nearly everyday wanting to pinch ourselves as we rejoice over the healings and miracles He is performing all around us. Life is good!

As a 12 or 13 year old, when asking my mother why she didn't leave my abusive father, she replied, "I have 5 children, no money, no job, no car and no one to help me. Where would I go and what would I do?"

Tears streaming down my face, I ran outside and cried my heart out. I told God that when I grew up I wanted to have a home for women and children just like us.

He heard that cry and about 6 years later on Oct. 17, 1976, I married Danny Calhoun. The following day I asked him what he would do with his life if money wasn't an object. He said, "I'd buy a farm and build a home for women and children."

That was the day I knew I'd married the right guy. I told him about my childhood prayer and we decided to pray every day of our lives for God to make what we thought was our dream come true. 30 years later, God provided the money needed to purchase a 347 acre farm, which we named Our Father's Farm. In 6 short years, God has provided the necessary funds to build 8 homes (for a total of 9) plus a 20,000 sq. ft. building, which is approximately 60% completed. We help primarily women and children find the healing and freedom they need to live a victorious and fruitful life. We also train men and women to be able to do the same and God gets all of the glory! We have come to know that it wasn't our dream after all, but God's dream that is coming true!

## I Have Decided

We have probably all sung the hymn "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus". I was in tears as I read the following story of the origins of this hymn.

About 150 years ago, there was a great revival in Wales, England. As a result, many missionaries went to North India from England and Germany to spread the Gospel.

At the time, northeast India was not divided into many states as it is today. The region was known as Assam and comprised of hundreds of tribes. The tribal communities were quite aggressive by nature. They were known as 'head-hunters' because of a social custom, which required the male members of the community to collect as many heads as possible. A man's strength and ability to protect his wife was determined by the number of heads he had collected. Therefore, a youth of marriageable age would try and collect as many heads as possible and hang them on the walls of his house. The more heads a man had the more eligible he was considered.

Into this hostile and aggressive community, came a group of Welsh missionaries spreading the message of love, peace and hope of Jesus Christ. Naturally, they were not welcomed. One family—a man, his wife, and two children became Christians. This man's faith proved contagious and many villagers began to accept Christianity.

Angry, the village chief summoned all the villagers. He then called the family who had first converted to renounce their faith in public or face execution. Moved by the Holy Spirit, the man began singing: "I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, No turning back, No turning back."

Enraged at the man's refusal, the chief ordered his archers to arrow down the two children. As both boys lay on the ground, the chief asked, "Will you deny your faith? You have lost both your children. You will lose your wife too."

But the man sang these words in reply: "Though none go with me, still I will follow; though none go with me, still I will follow, though none go with me, still I will follow, no turning back, no turning back."

The chief was beside himself with fury and ordered his wife to be arrowed down too. He said, "I will give you one more opportunity to deny your faith and live."

In the face of death the man sang the final memorable lines: "The world behind me, the Cross before me; the world behind me, the Cross before me, the world behind me, the Cross before me, no turning back, no turning back."

As he lay dead beside his family, a miracle took place. The chief who had ordered the killings was moved by the faith of the man. He wondered why this man, his wife and two children would die for a Man who lived in a far-away land some 2,000 years ago. He decided that there must be some supernatural power behind the family, and he decided that he wanted that supernatural power. In a spontaneous confession of faith, he declared, "I too belong to Jesus Christ!" When the crowd heard this from the mouth of their chief, the whole village accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior!

### THE INVITATION

Rhonda, I just wanted to say that your new book is beyond wonderful! I read it in about 3 days and I feel like it's totally changed my life—for real! I cried, prayed, laughed, and repented my way through the whole book. Since finishing it God has been speaking to me about so much in my life that needs to change. It's been incredible the things He has shown me. I'm not just being generous with my words, I feel like I can't use enough words to describe how it affected me. Little things God has been saying to me, confirmed in your book. Pure Holy Spirit in every word, in every detail. I love that God can do that! You are incredible, and so is Jesus!

Bethany

*To order *The Invitation* by Rhonda Calhoun visit our online bookstore at: [www.harvesthome.org](http://www.harvesthome.org)*

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