



Jan. 1, 2014

Dear Friends,

One of our young ladies on Our Father's Farm recently shared an idea with me. I asked her to share it with all of you. This young lady, Suzy (not her real name), is presently very sick and without a miracle she won't live on this earth very much longer. She is only 23 years old. Please pray for her and prayerfully consider partnering with her. The following is one of her "dying wishes".

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As I write this I am listening to a song called, "My Little One" by Jon Thurlow. The words of the song say that love will take the fear away. I trust that that is true because I am dying.

And I want to share what it is like to be a girl from a broken background and has come to the farm for healing. My past tends to be in my face every day. I have been badly hurt from sex trafficking, verbal and physical abuse, and choices I made to cope with a broken heart and shattered confidence. I was literally in a prison of fear and pain. I couldn't and even now sometimes can't express how I feel. The truth of my life hurts so badly to share and trust is the hardest thing to give.

When I came to the farm, I met all these people who smiled and showed me kindness. They put everything down to serve the Lord and others. And yet you don't let them in. It's too scary and it hurts too much. The thought is always there that they might lie or hurt you. It took me months to even begin to talk. I'm still a very quiet person and I am still dealing with problems from my past. It's not an easy road at all. It was actually excruciatingly hard to choose to overcome and be healed from my past. Some days it felt easier to run and never look back. But the reality is... looking back is the only way to look forward and heal.

The people on the farm did whatever was necessary to help me and every other girl that comes here. They change the schedules and they shift the "program" to help each individual girl. I was never treated like everyone else—everyone here is treated as special and unique. And above all, I was unconditionally loved. You can make the biggest mistakes and still be met with a hug and conversation to address it, but never condemned or rejected. I am loved!

Let me share the accomplishments I've made since I came to the farm. I now speak; I never spoke when I first came. I now laugh; laughing was unsafe, showing emotions before was not an option. I now sleep; sleep has been one of the hardest things for me. I now eat; I once suffered from anorexia and fear of food. I now play; playing any game or being silly was unsafe and terrifying to me. I've learned to take care of myself—showering, changing clothes, etc. People never think of how hard it is to do those simple things, but it used to terrify me.

I've learned new things like gardening, taking care of horses, art, cooking, knitting, cleaning without fear of failing an unrealistic expectation, how to be a friend and receive and give love. I've learned many things about myself. Some good and some things I still need to work on. I've become gentle, caring and loving. Now I don't have to be tough or wear a mask that tells people to stay away.

I've learned to smile. People say I have a beautiful smile and I'm starting to believe them. I can now express my love for animals. I've been encouraged to find safety in the animals and they've helped me to feel love. I've learned how to have a family and have a mom and dad who love me unconditionally. I've learned that I'm smart and capable of making decisions and following my heart and dreams. I've been learning how to use the word "no".

I've been through a lot in my life. But the grace of God pulled me through to a place where I was able to meet Him. And now I'm counting the days until I get to see Him face to face and dance with the King. I'm waiting for the beauty of heaven to be my home. And I'm striving to not be afraid. He is my rescuer and my defender. He is my just judge and sees the darkest days and all the terrible things I've been through.

For the last time, I will face everything I've been through and held in and I will let it go. My Cinderella rags will be turned into a beautiful gown. I will never again be hurt or a slave. I will be free to be me. My life on earth is coming to an end. My past has worn my body down and an unfair thing has happened to me. But I'm choosing to make the best of it and pour out everything in my heart. And achieve as many things on my "bucket list" as I can. I want to make an impact on this world. I want my life to mean something and to be part of changing the lives of girls like me.

This is where I need your help. I was inspired by the movie "The Miracle of the Cards" where a young boy is dying from a tumor and he started collecting cards and each card was a prayer. I am asking for card-prayers. I want to collect letters and cards for the girls who will come to the farm in the future. I think it would be so cool to collect as many as possible. Since I'm in bed a lot, I will be putting these cards in a scrapbook for the girls to see and read. The notes will be an

encouragement to me and to the every girl that comes here. They will know that someone was praying for them and encouraging them without even knowing them. When I first came to the farm, I received a journal, a hand-made blanket and card from someone I didn't know, someone who was praying for me.

I'd love for the farm to be inundated with letters and cards. I want to be so busy putting cards into a scrapbook(s) or delivering them to another girl, that I forget I am dying. This is my way to pour into the lives of the girls who will come. I dreamed of working in The Refuge, but God has a different plan. I won't be able to do that. I'm trying to make the best of it and am asking for your help.

The cards and letters don't have to be anything fancy, just a simple note sharing God's love and your love for them. Something that will let them know they are loved and cared about by people they don't even know. If you want to send a gift of any kind, please do so. Ask God what He wants you to do. I don't have a lot of time left, but I want to spend every day I have pouring into their future.

Please help, I can't do this alone. Each month, we will update you with the number of cards we received. I am so excited to think about how much this will mean to so many girls. I am also truly excited to have something to look forward to each day and be able to put these books together while I am resting.

On the farm, HOPE means Helping One Person Escape. To escape you have to have something to run to and a safe place to land. You have to learn that letting people help you isn't so scary and that crying is ok. And lastly, you have to believe that escaping into healing is possible and that God will never leave you. That has been my healing journey. It hasn't easy, but it was and is worth it.

So please help me do what I believe was an idea inspired by God. It means so much to me to share my last dream with you and hopefully see it become a reality—thousands of cards. My life is ending beautifully and the broken places had a purpose and God is and will continue to use it—even after I am with Him. I hope the arrival of cards is still going so strongly that I have to pass it off to someone else once I'm unable. Thank you so much for reading this!

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I've known this young lady for three years now. She's fought long and hard to find freedom from her emotional pain and to overcome the things that held her captive for most of her life. She's a beautiful person with a beautiful heart. Will you please pray for her as she faces another major hurdle? Will you also "kiss" her heart by sending as many card(s) as you can with prayers and/or words of encouragement for future girls? And would you please help us get the word out by sharing this newsletter with others who might do the same? I look forward to giving her the mail each day and seeing her smile. (She really does have a beautiful smile).

Address to.... Suzy...c/o Harvest Home...1177 NW 300<sup>th</sup> Rd...Holden, MO 64040.

Blessings,

*Danny and Rhonda*

Our Father's Farm Need's:

Small 4 wheel drive tractor similar to a Kubota TLB B26 or M59 series with bucket.

2 Utility 4 wheel drive vehicle with rear dump beds.

Small 5 foot drag harrow to pull behind the tractor or ATV.

Wagon to be pulled by horses.

Cart to be pulled by pony or small horse.

Hay wagon for tractors.

Haying equipment, round baler, mowers, rakes.

If you can help, please call Danny at 816-522-9011 or email [danny@harvesthome.org](mailto:danny@harvesthome.org)

Book Sale: Purchase *The Bride* by Rhonda Calhoun and receive a complimentary copy of her newest book, *The Invitation*. To order, visit our online bookstore at [www.harvesthome.org](http://www.harvesthome.org) The proceeds help support the ministry of Harvest Home.

Please visit our bookstore and website: [www.harvesthome.org](http://www.harvesthome.org)

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