



ministry divisions



THE HANSON HERALD
NEWSLETTER FOR DARLA HANSON
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Speaking the truth in love?!?

Remember the old school teeter-totters? I loved playing on them when I was small. We'd pile bunches of kids on each side of the board to see if we could find that perfect balancing point. A pastor of mine once said that "speaking the truth in love" from Ephesians 4:15 can be illustrated as a teeter-totter.

We tend to land on one side or the other—speaking the truth **OR** love.

Landing on the side of speaking the truth without love or showing love without speaking the truth can both cause harm. Like trying to stand on the balancing point of a teeter-totter to keep the board level, speaking truth in love is a hard balance to find. It takes work and it sure makes your legs tired. :)

The last three years as Director of Mobilization has at times felt like a training course in the balancing act of truth and love. I occasionally go home feeling the strain of trying to find that balance point in communication.

It's hard for me to know how to share the challenging parts of my role. I don't want people to think poorly of the ministry or that we have problems, but, the reality is we do deal with hard situations. Just like every company, family, and church we have conflicts.

However, even in the stretching times, God is doing good things. I certainly rely on the Lord's wisdom more and I believe my communication and listening skills are improving. My love for our staff team has grown as well. When I remember the big picture and that lives can be impacted by how I handle conflict, it spurs me on to keep growing!

The Apostle Paul talked about a time when he was under huge pressure, even fearing for his life. He wrote in second Corinthians, *"But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God...On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many."*

While our situations rarely become life threatening like Paul's, his words show the perfect way to handle challenging seasons. He reminds us that God is using these situations for a purpose, that He can and will deliver us, and that others are helping us with their prayers. He also points out God deserves thanks for what He will do!

Thank you for helping me with your prayers! I'm grateful for you and your friendship.

God answers: My new opportunity

God is so creative in the way He works. I delight in the variety of ways He leads and directs us. Last year I had been praying for an opportunity to serve locally, but I wasn't sure where or what it would be. That's when a friend asked if I would be willing to help her by leading a Bible study for nine weeks at my church. She needed a sub while she took a short class with her husband. It was the first time since my cancer treatment that I felt I had the bandwidth to commit to extra things during the week. Thus, the nine-week commitment sounded great. Funny how my nine-week commitment has turned into two years.

I love studying Scripture with others, but this group has an extra special place in my heart. More than half of the group have husbands or boyfriends who have been incarcerated or who struggle with addictions. It's such a privilege to co-lead the Wednesday night study and begin doing life alongside these amazing woman! The challenges some of the ladies have endured are immense, but God is bigger! It's a joy to see their hunger for the Lord and desire to follow Him.



How's your health?

Many of you have asked about my health and I'm very happy to report I passed the five year cancer-free milestone last fall!! I see my oncologist every six months for blood work and check ins. They will keep me on medications for another five years. I do struggle with substantial allergies and sleep apnea which bring their own challenges. However, overall I'm gaining ground and am doing my best to keep it that way. My Mom has also remained cancer free since her cancer surgery back in 2017. We are both very grateful for early detection and good recoveries!

Points for prayer:

- Pray for continued wisdom as I lead the Mobilization Department and help to hire and nurture the next generation of leaders.
- Summer prep is ramping up. Pray for the students who will serve around the world on our teams.
- Praise God for the women in my Bible Study. Ask Him to work powerfully in their lives and in their families.
- Praise the Lord for continued good medical reports and five years cancer free!