

# A Broken Marriage

A memoir compiled for my children  
in hope that these memories may precipitate  
understanding, healing, and forgiveness.  
I'm sorry for spending many years blind and in a fog and  
not standing up for the children as I should have.

Please forgive me.

Perhaps it goes without saying but the episodes journaled herein are  
as seen from my perspective and  
as experienced in my skin.

God has been merciful. I prayed for all of you every single day. Do you remember? God hears. You can go to [heirs.wordpress.com](http://heirs.wordpress.com) to read my prayers, hopes, apologies, and some more positive recollections than are contained herein. Eg. [Why did my children turn out so GOOD?](#)

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# 1. Shame on You's Compiled

June 20, 2012 <https://heirs.wordpress.com/2012/06/20/shame-on-you/>

The following comes from real life "shame on you" messages. If you are a praying person, pray for our children. I hurt for them.

Shame on you:

You are a wuz. shame on you

you have no common sense. shame on you

you failed your road test. shame on you

you play computer. shame on you

you spilled your milk. shame on you

you broke that. shame on you

you lost that. shame on you

you smiled at the wrong time. shame on you

you got tired and cold and whined when I wanted to ski. shame on you

you hurt your ankle and couldn't hike ten more miles. shame on you

you cost me money. shame on you

you're wasting time. shame on you

you're making too much noise. shame on you

you have a deep belly button. shame on you

you bore a female child. shame on you

you were born female. shame on you

you feminist. shame on you

you never ever ever live up to my expectations. shame on you

NO! NOT shame on you!

Grace

Love

Acceptance

Mercy

I'm tired of "shame on you".

and when I defend the children from the toxic shaming and blaming...

he said its my fault he feels rejected and condemned. He insists I want him to go

He says this is about MY childhood, MY baggage. There is some truth to this- I was blind to the shaming and blaming because it was familiar; Daddy did it too.

No. I don't want him to go. I want him to STOP with the constant stream of "shame on you".

I won't be surprised if he does go, though. "Leaving" and "divorce" come out of his mouth at every conflict. What is in a man's heart comes out of his mouth. Thus saith the word of the Lord...

Ron is "right", he is "godly", and he is "justified" heaping "shame on you". No apologies, no effort to grow or change. He's always been perfect. Me and the children are "the problem". If only we "respected his authority"....

He has power and has a habit of using it badly. I press on and attempt as best I can to repair the damage and pick up the pieces, not always very successfully....

He feels rejected and condemned- told me so. In his mind he is the victim. What does "shame on you for failing your road test. why did I ever have children?" communicate to 17 year old Sarah? REJECTION and CONDEMNATION! HE feels rejected and condemned and doesn't see how he is provoking those feelings in those he is supposed to "love"...

I don't think my husband has ever genuinely felt the love of God nor experienced healing of the wounds his own father burdened him with. In many ways he is emotionally arrested. As my children mature and I help them process their memories of hurtful experiences, they seem to be able to grasp that their father's (and my) deficiencies should not be taken personally.

So, I covet prayers for deliverance for the children- that this rejecting, condemning, "shame on you" MO along with the pattern of unwillingness to receive correction not carry on into the next generation. Praying is something you can do. God is in the business of deliverance!

😊

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## 2. Early Years. Distaste for Daughters and Obsession with “being a missionary”

### 1988 Surabaya, Indonesia

He did not want a girl child. Only boys. Females are not valuable

We did not know the child’s gender beforehand

When Joanne- the third child and second daughter was born in May, 1988, Surabaya, Indonesia.

He said to me, “YOU got YOURSELF another girl!”

No ownership on his part because it was a (contemptuous spit!) female.

And he left me alone, ALONE, completely and utterly ALONE in a foreign country where I did not speak the language and I did not even have a phone. He was only a few minutes away but he did not come visit me and the baby at all until it was time for our discharge several days later...

I felt so lonely, so rejected, so abandoned...

He was a church supported missionary

But going out to bars to drink where prostitutes solicited

He took 5 year old Hannah on his motorcycle into the vast prostitute district and came home and told me that they said “she would sell”

He would not listen to me, not at all, that drinking with prostitutes was playing with fire and he was going to get burned

I wanted to take the children and leave that God forsaken place. I was ever so lonely and hurt... He told me, “YOU go but you cannot take the children because females have no rights here, males rule the children are on MY visa!” I would not abandon my children, never.

I feared for his soul and at times I asked God if it would be better for him to be killed in a motorcycle crash while he still had a chance for heaven.

When he had sex with a prostitute on a weekend seminar away in Jakarta, he came home crying. I was not surprised, not at all. What did he expect? You flirt and flirt and FLIRT with temptation and then you are surprised when you succumb?

He was mean. I was hurt and emotional and I still remember the added injury of his calling me names in the midst of that (I was “such a bitch”)... I should have divorced him then. But

I was a Christian. I believed in marriage, I hoped he would repent and be transformed, I had three children under 6 and was dependent.

Cheating is a deep seated character issue that does not get better. It has gotten worse and worse with time.

It was such a lonely marriage...

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## **Till 1997...**

In the first 10 years of marriage we moved 22 times and lived in 6 states and two foreign countries. He never helped me pack, not even when I begged. Never. Once. He would load the van on the day of the move and unload when we got there. I had nightmares for 15 years about packing- no exaggeration.

It was such a lonely marriage...

In 1990 I nearly died from a burst appendix and I was told that I was sterile. We had 3 children at the time- two daughters and a son. When I discovered I was pregnant, due in July 1992, I was very surprised. I am ashamed to confess that when the ultrasound revealed a female child, I understood why women in India abort their females. I felt so ashamed for feeling disappointed and being "rejecting" that for all of Keren's childhood, I compensated by favoring her. My pro-life resolve is only deepened by receiving such a great treasure in my 4<sup>th</sup> child, 3<sup>rd</sup> daughter, Keren.

Whenever I birthed a daughter, he was disappointed. He was the one that did not believe in birth control but he was downright angry when I got pregnant with the 6<sup>th</sup> child, Susy, because all those years he kept wanting to go back to the mission field and he presumed that no mission board would accept someone with 6 children. And then to find out that Susy was another girl... Shame on me for bearing daughters!!!

He tells a story of feeling convicted about rejecting this fifth daughter when sweet little Joanne saw his troubled countenance and innocently quoted, "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God concerning you."

Now I understand why we had many daughters in between the sons. He was meaner to his sons so God saved two of the sons for last because God knew I would have to flee for their safety and my sanity.

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### 3. 2004-2008 Marriage descriptions-what it was like in My shoes.

#### 2004

He had never dropped the desire to return to the mission field. The mission field and his unfaithfulness, selfishness, and cruelty was the darkest time in my memory and I had vowed never to cross a border with him and the children again. Over there, I was powerless and I never believed that he addressed the roots of bitterness that led to the ugly fruit. I was afraid that he would do it again.

I felt like an obstacle to his dream, like a piece of baggage he would rather he didn't have to deal with. Me and the blasted big family that mission boards might frown upon.

We applied to SIM and they required counseling before they would consider us to be candidates. He was suspicious of counseling and hated that requirement. Going to counseling with him got nowhere. He dug in his heels, he had an e-mail battle with the mission board. The candidate director, upon seeing his behavior, told me I needed to have very firm boundaries. I never have. The marriage counselor said that in his 10 years of practice as a licensed clinical psychologist, he had never had a client as controlling as my husband. Ever.

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#### 2005

I had been sick, throwing up all day. Joey was sick too and I was up a lot last night, so I'm exhausted. I haven't had water in the house for two days because something went wrong with the well. This is a hardship. I'm not Amish and I'm not used to figuring out how to clean the baby's bottom and take care of throwup messes with no water

I am not allowed to call up and get a repair man in to fix the water because my husband believes the doctrine that he is the master and Lord of the household and he will not permit it. He is in no rush to take care of it. It just doesn't bother him much.

Laying in bed that night, I tell him about my day hoping for a wee bit of comfort and compassion, but he ignores me; he is playing with himself. He says "I want sex". I protest that I do not feel well. He says "1 Cor 7:4 says your body belongs to me. Spread your legs

now or you are in SIN by defrauding me sexually (1 Cor 7:5)". By now I was in counseling and taking baby steps with boundaries. I did not submit and he threatened to bring me before the elders of the church for my rebellion and sinful withholding. (In case you are wondering, not a week has gone by in the entire marriage without sex a couple times, except for medical issues: post childbirth and miscarriage, mainly. He doesn't believe in birth control and I have been pregnant 11 times.)

Another time after a miscarriage (two miscarriages after Joey's birth in '02), the doctor prescribed 6 weeks of pelvic rest. That would not do. He pressured me and I had sex with him after two weeks. I orgasmed but it brought on intense pain and a resumption of the bleeding. Then I wanted to stop and wait the prescribed recovery time. He was angry and judgmental about that- considered it sinful withholding. "You did it once and you have no excuse". The lack of compassion in the midst of the physical pain and the grief of the loss of the pregnancy was hard.

It was a very very **lonely** marriage!

Due to my own childhood baggage, I am more like a man with sex. I can detach from however I am being treated and have satisfying orgasmic sex even if I am feeling angry, hurt, and neglected. So sex was not a chore in general, it was ecstatic. Often I would comment that I hoped it was prophetic; I hoped that some day we could experience bonding and connect emotionally like we connected physically. The intimacy in our marriage was only physical, not emotional, not spiritual.

It was a lonely marriage...

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## **2006-08**

We flunked out of marriage counseling and he could not be a missionary...

So he lurched toward porn use, strip clubs, and then an affair with a janitor at work in her van in the parking lot and in our Hamburg house. He went to casinos with her too.

Every time he was having affairs he would accuse me of having a boyfriend. He projected his sins onto me. When he was having affairs he was also mean, neglectful, and contemptuous. I was afraid that he might burn up the house with all of us in it. In a spiritual sense, he did destroy the home.

I remained with him on the condition that he stop drinking. Every adulterous episode happened under the influence. He called alcohol "a moral anesthetic".

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## 4. Hurting the Children

### January 1, 2006 Redux- Processing the Pain : (

Journal Entry from January 9, 2009

My daughter Joanne is 20 and mentioned this episode again just over Christmas break, showed me the scar on her leg, and talked to me about how unbelievable that he blamed that on soccer and has never (to this day) owned what he did. Clearly, his denial remains painful to her even after 3 years (it happened New Year's Day '06).

#### **Equally destructive was the pastor validating his denial.**

He was very distrustful of "secular counseling" and refused to continue with a professional counselor so he was in counseling with that pastor at the time. I called the pastor when my daughter was assaulted. He lied and told the pastor the children had STOLEN his CREDIT CARD and done everything behind his back. He told the pastor that the 118lb 17yo, was LYING that he had caused her bruises. He said they were from "sports". {**note- BIG mistake, forget the pastor, call the police**}

This is the background to the episode: My 3 oldest children (17-22) wanted to get a family cell phone plan but did not have credit so they couldn't sign a contract. They approached me with a plan-carefully constructed to appeal to him- They are all employed and responsible and they agreed to PAY not only for their own phones for a whole year in advance, but for his phone too. I laid the whole plan out to him thoroughly and he expressed no objection. When we got the cell phones in the mail he denied he had approved this and wanted the decision un-Done. I signed the contract and I used my own credit card and I refused to un-Do it. . Next thing I know, I am putting little children to bed and hear Joanne (age 17) screaming downstairs. She sassed him and he assaulted her.

My husband has not been habitually physically abusive, but it is very difficult to recover from even the isolated episodes when he refuses to take responsibility for his behavior.

Personally, I have given up on pastors and churches being helpful for healing of abusers. I think that is very sad because I know JESUS wants to heal them, but churches don't seem to be able to feed them fruit that leads to life.

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## Fall 2007

My husband took two of the children hiking and they came back and he was all bent out of shape, chip on his shoulder because "they RUINED his trip".

Susy (10) wanted to talk to me in private with her brother. The two of them told me the story of how the Tim (7) had walked 9 miles the first day and his ankle was sore and when he was limping and could not do it the second day, was dragged by the arm and called by profanities which we have NEVER used (it was a serious escalation!) Susy (10) was crying when she recounted how daddy had acted and how she was scared and helpless to do anything but she had tried to comfort Timothy in the back seat of the car.

I looked at my son's ankle and it was swollen to twice the normal size, yet he was abused for not being able to hike. I picked him up and brought him down and plopped him down next to my husband. I was extremely angry. "LOOOK at his ANKLE! What are you THINKING accusing him of being a faker and calling him such horrible names and dragging him around by the arm over not being able to walk on this? WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU????"

He did wind up apologizing to them for that, and I think it was essential for me to confront that head on.

~~~~~

## January 21, 2008

Maybe it is a case of "when I am weak, then I am strong". I had been feeling very weak, torn down, discouraged, misunderstood. God helped me to stand up to my husband today and I feel very good about it. It is OK to be firm and fight for the dignity of my children.

Daddy took them sledding. I wasn't there. He called Timothy (7) names "idiot" "stupid" "fool". It is not clear to me that Timothy did anything to provoke the tirade except cry and Susy (10) said he started crying because his father started in on him.

They come to me to tell me what daddy did. They trust me to protect them, to stand in the gap for them, to stand up against the bullying. I rebuked him loudly in front of all the children who had witnessed the verbal abuse. I want them all to know that it is completely unacceptable, disrespectful, unchristlike behavior and Timothy does not deserve to be treated that way! I prayed loudly over Timothy (so hubby could hear from the other room) and broke the word curses and lies which were spoken over my son and prayed that he would be deeply assured that his Heavenly Father loves, values, and esteems him.

He is thickly self justifying it! Says that "James Dobson would approve of my disciplining my son- I didn't call him a stupid idiotic fool. I said he was **acting like** a stupid idiotic fool which is the truth" He said " I am not ashamed of disciplining my children. I'll stand up in front of the whole church and tell them proudly about my discipline techniques"

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## **January 24, 2008**

Yesterday we had the 4th session of marriage counseling with the pastor. I raised the verbal abuse incident (as described above). My husband spent a long time on the same self-justifications... and the pastor told me that his wife never confronts him in front of the children, never "outs" him.

I explained to the pastor that our 7 year old son is doing much better this year- since I stand up to the verbal abuse for him and in his presence. Last year I had numerous teachers conferences- he was in trouble in school for bullying. Now he knows that his father's cutting remarks are lies and not his fault. So, it does not hurt him and upset him like it used to. He didn't like being in trouble at school. I think his acting out came right out of being exasperated: "fathers do not exasperate your children" Eph 6:4 He wants to be a good boy, and he prays sincerely every single night to be a good boy, and he **is** a good boy!

The pastor said "your husband doesn't like your confronting him in front of the children; you will not have peace in the household" I replied, "Then so be it. I have no intention of ceasing to hold him accountable in front of the children each and every occasion they report to me that he has been verbally abusive to them. I am following what GOD has laid on my heart and Jesus said 'I have not come to bring peace but a sword'"

Then he asked my husband if he is willing to stop using the derogatory words toward his children. He said "some wives wouldn't mind, but you are not married to one of them. To YOUR wife those words are like fingernails on a chalkboard."

My husband told the pastor, "I will try to stop ONLY because you are suggesting it, not because I think it is wrong. I don't think it is wrong"

~~~~~

## October 5, 2008

He did it again yesterday.

Called our 8 yos Timothy a "STUPID IDIOT!"

because he fell in the mud and dropped a log

I wasn't home to ream him out

My 20yod Joanne called me up to tell me that her brother was in the house in distress

very discouraging

especially after the message I heard this morning about how Christ is supposed to change people

I BELIEVE

**CHRIST**

changes people

sadly

the "church"

appears to be an obstacle to CHRIST!

the "church"

gives him permission

to **IGNORE** the cries of pain from his wife and children

and

VALIDATES his **JERKHOOD!**

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## 5. Mom Hits Bottom- Deprivations, Neglect, and Bitter Venting

### **June 4, 2008 Journal Entry**

I remember the pit, the time when I hit bottom. He was informed that his teaching contract would not be renewed (@ the 9th job loss), lost his father fairly recently, and deprived us of adequate heat all winter. I remember asking him what he feels about losing his job. He said "happy, optimistic" and "God has a plan". Sounds nice; sounds holy. But meanwhile, I begged for help with the snow shovelling, nagged. He wouldn't. We had 220 inches that winter. He never picked up a shovel the entire winter. He would read his Bible for 2 hours before going to work at the job that was ending.

I reminded him gently and quietly once a month or so about the heat. We did not have adequate heat that entire winter ('04 -strictly his neglect- when he finally finished the project it took him 8 hours, and NO, I was not "allowed" to call someone to finish the work) and the baby needed 6 rounds of antibiotics that winter (I am NOT exaggerating. The PA who saw the child "offered" to send social services in- which was sure threatening to ME!- to investigate our contribution to his "failure to thrive").

I remember he did a study on "nourish and cherish". One of those words means "to keep warm". He thought that was absolutely hilarious, leaned his head back and laughed at the top of his lungs. It isn't funny to me, never was, still isn't.

So, I am thinking about my anger. Several resources I have read indicate that he wants me angry. My anger is his goal. He likes it, feeds on it. Soooo, the way to stop feeding the Beast is to stop getting angry.

Easier said than done.

(At the root of the anger is intense pain, but expressing pain, weakness, vulnerability to him is very unsafe. I suppose we are making progress. Lately he hasn't leaned back his head and laughed at the top of his lungs from his belly if he provokes tears from a teenage daughter. Now its just this annoying patronizing condescending air.)

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### **Friday night, March 28, 2008- record of the episode**

In the car on the way out to eat, he badgered me repeatedly about my books (marriage and recovery books). I politely requested at least 6 times that he "lay off of me about the

books!" He ignored my pleas and continued badgering me right into the parking lot of the restaurant. I told him that I did not want to go out to eat with him and asked him to turn around and take me home right now, He refused and said "go ahead home". I replied, "FINE" (intending to take the car and leave), but he took the keys and told me you walk home!" He went in the restaurant and ate and drank alcohol.

I got a ride home. I packed up some things and began to load the children and luggage into the car, He removed the keys from me with physical force. He pushed my head down against the car crushing my nose. Then he called the police for assistance in preventing me from leaving. He spoke on the phone with the police until the phone died. They told him that it would take an hour to get to our house and he would be arrested for unlawful imprisonment unless he let me go with the children. The phone died and after a few minutes he let me go.

Since that episode, he has failed to take responsibility, own, be sorry, and repent for his controlling, harsh, unloving, abusive behavior. Rather he reviled me to the police officers, to my children, and to everyone else he has told about the episode. He brought up episodes from the past (2-3 years ago) to make it sound like I am the problem, unstable, etc. These long ago confessed and repented episodes that he paraded out to prove that he is the victim and I am the sinner are things for which I took complete responsibility immediately upon their occurrence, things for which I was very sorry and ashamed, and apologized and prayed and repented, prayed many many MANY hours, did deep intense Bible Study and spiritual warfare, and worked on my underlying issues intensely via long term individual counseling and recovery programs. I heard him tell the police on the phone that "she's stopped taking antidepressants. I don't want to say in front of her what I'm afraid of" The look he had in his eyes while he was standing in the car door preventing me from leaving and reviling me on the phone was frightening- very unpredictable (demon possessed?). He told me afterwards that the police asked him repeatedly if I was suicidal (which is further evidence to me of how he reviled my mental health)

I stayed overnight with 4 children elsewhere. I had a delayed reaction of fear and trauma and I did not feel safe to return home so I stayed another night.

I am now picking up the pieces of the fallout from this episode.

Timothy (7) asked me yesterday about a 2-3 year old episode when I had physically attacked Ron. "Daddy told us that you...." I told Timothy "When I hurt someone it is very important to me to apologize immediately and not to blame the person I hurt, and that is

what I did when those things happened. I hope you will always remember to apologize sincerely when you hurt someone”.

Joey’s teacher called me today (Tues) to report that he had acted out repeatedly in an aggressive manner- including threatening to get a gun and shoot himself, elbowing a teacher, spitting on another child, and head butting another child. I told her that he had witnessed an episode of domestic violence against me Friday night, that Joey (5) was not the target but was a witness as were all the children. She offered the services of the school psychologist for Joey which I gratefully accepted. I also assured her that this was an escalation which I have not seen before and- whatever it takes- I do not intend for it to happen again.

I have been giving this a great deal of thought. My husband has said upon more than one occasion that we are starting over, a new beginning, the “second half” I got thinking about what my reaction would have been to a date who treated me the way he did on Friday night. I would have assumed that he is a disturbed individual, I would be frightened of him, I would make every effort to avoid contact with him and never speak to him again, and I certainly would not have married a young man who would treat me that way.

nor will I stay married to a man who treats me that way.

Would you want your daughter treated that way?

I don’t want my daughters marrying a man who would treat her that way, nor do I want my sons treating anyone that way. I am God’s daughter and HE does not want me treated this way. God’s will for me is a husband who nourishes, cherishes, and lives with me in an understanding way.

Clearly, he is escalating. In our entire marriage he has never tolerated habitual porn use in himself for a year. He has only once ever hurt me with physical violence before (and that was nipped in the bud when my brother had a word with him) The message on Sunday included a bit about “hitting bottom”. He did not hit bottom with adultery, habitual drunkenness, and missionary shipwreck. He did not hit bottom with 9 mostly painful job changes. He did not hit bottom when his neglect of 8 hours of labor needed to finish the boiler deprived us of adequate heat the winter of ‘04 contributing to repeated ear infections of his infant son. Joey went through 6 rounds of antibiotics, and the PA (Meg W.) told me if he continued his “failure to thrive”, she would send social services in to see what we were doing wrong. He did not hit bottom with perpetrating violence upon his 17 year old daughter (1/1/06). He did not hit bottom with years of verbal abuse toward me and the children. He did not hit bottom with years of emotional abuse toward me. He did not hit bottom with

physical aggression toward me and treating me like so much trash to be dumped by the side of the road Friday night. I really don't want to hang around and be the whipping boy any more on his way to wherever his bottom is. I am growing in the Lord and healing.. He is growing worse and he is bringing death into the household.

1 Cor 5: 11 But now I am writing you that **you must not associate** with anyone **who calls himself a brother** but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. **With such a man do not even eat.**

~~~~~

## **Bitter Venting April 26, 2008**

I'm afraid this post will sound bitter, and perhaps I am, may the Lord have mercy upon my soul.

He called to say his return is delayed.

I'm relieved.

Its easier without him.

Then I don't have to suffer the CONSTANT UNENDING disappointment of DAILY BROKEN promises and unkept committments

Where shall I begin?

"Wrestlers Rocks" Timmy wanted an e-mail and that is the handle he picked.

Timmy had just turned 8.

His dad was a wrestler.

Ron PROMISED he would he would get home early enough to take Tim to wrestling

He didn't. Not. Once. The entire season.

Timmy wrestled,

no thanks to Ron.

He loves it soooooo much.

I decided I'll happily drive for him next year.

We don't need Ron for that.

His 15 year old daughter Keren was a STAR in Godspell with a major part. His 21 year old son Daniel and 19 year old daughter Joanne wanted to come home from school in the city in support of their kid sister. But both of their cars were broken down. Uh Oh, OH NO, shoot,

they had to rely on DAD to pick them up and get them there on time. NO SURPRISE WHATSOEVER! SAME OLD SAME OLD! They were LATE.

Late for dinner at 6, you ask?

Oh no, NOT late for dinner at 6 which is the time he PROMISED me he would get home on Fridays.

No, LATE for the show.

And to top it all off. We had two cars at the show. I was first in line since I needed to take Keren (15) to the school to get ready. On the way home, Jo (19) and Dan (21) rode with me. But she needed to stop at her boyfriend's family to pick up his tax refund check so she could bring it to him in the city. After running the errand where they got chatting for a few minutes, we get home and Ron is GONE. No message about where he went. Did he go to an all night walmart to get something special for the Godspell star? Did he go out to get his wife something to make up for being late for dinner AGAIN?

NO. He went to a BAR at 11:00 at night. And he was not home when I woke up at 1:30 to clean up after Timothy (7) who was puking. Son Daniel (21) told me "But MOM, he was HUNGRY. He didn't get DINNER. And you know how he is 'old-fashioned', wants to be waited on. No one was around to wait on him"

Me: "We have a fridge with leftovers in it. We have a microwave."

I get the picture. Unless someone is home to BABYSIT him, he is going to do something STUPID, RISKY, DANGEROUS, and ILLEGAL (ie drink and drive, not to mention the sexual temptation of going to bars)

He teaches, trains, talks this behavior up to my children. He disciplines them in this behavior. Susy (10) said, "It wasn't JUST a bar. It was a bar and GRILL." LORD protect my daughter from marrying a man like this PLEASE LORD, HAVE MERCY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Timothy (8 ) pointed to beer in a store. "Is THAT the kind of beer daddy drinks?" Timothy and Joey (5) got all excited about earth day and took their red wagon up and down the street to pick up cans. They got 51 and two cans were full of BEER. "Daddy drinks that. Can we drink it, mom?" LORD PROTECT MY SONS from the generational curse of alcoholism.

I saw my nephew while I was in Florida. The nephew whose dad role modelled drinking and driving. My nephew hit a tree at age 17 when he was drunk driving. That was in 05. He had a brain stem injury He's out of the wheelchair now and can walk. He's real slow on sand because his right side was affected by a stroke. I have great hope that his speech will

eventually get to where you can understand him completely. He has made such miraculous progress. When he first came out of the coma, the nurses were overjoyed if he could manage to blow on a whistle to make a noise. He'll graduate high school this year at age 20. Quite an accomplishment after all he's been through.

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## July 2008 Journal Entry

In my marriage, there was no habitual "domestic violence". And there wasn't the pattern of honeymoon, and build up, and rage like they speak of with abusers. But there was the constant demeaning, disrespectful, insulting lifestyle of not being trusted, not being considered competent to make adult decisions about matters which affected every area of my life and the lives of our children daily and intimately. I STOPPED making such decisions because it was just not worth it to me to pay the price I paid for doing so. I preferred to run every decision through him than to endure the verbal abuse for NOT doing so. Even then, it broke down. One domestic violence episode was with my then 17 yod Joanne because he DENIED that the matter was run through him when it had been and she got lippy with him (see "Processing the Pain" above).

Besides not being able to make basic decisions about which phone plan is best for the household, which vacuum cleaner I prefer, whether a child can have permission to go over to a friend's house.... there was empathic failure- if it wasn't important to him then we should live without it, to complain was "contentious" "rebellious" "unsubmissive", and he's "the head of the household, absolutely NOT, you will NOT call someone to fix it!" – so I was deprived of what I consider basic necessities like adequate heat and hot water (I have 8 children to care for, and at the time of the heat deprivation, my youngest was 18 months and was very sickly- he had to have 6 rounds of antibiotics and had "failure to thrive") It FELT like I was living in a concentration camp. What finally initiated the necessary destruction of that paradigm and my gradual discovery of my personal liberty and spiritual authority in Christ was when I told God that I felt ever so weary and heavy laden and my faith is NOT working the way the Bible promises. I begged for Him to remove every yoke which is not from Him because HE PROMISED HIS yoke is easy and His burden is light, and mine was not. 😞

~~~~~

## 6. The Sins of the Fathers and my Attempt to Break Generational Curses by Standing up for the Children

### **A Father screws up a son... Journal Entry Jan 19, 2009**

"Did your father SCREW YOU financially???"

I called my husband's cell phone and asked him to think about that question as he drives to work. We had another big conflict over MONEY yesterday. (and NO, I was NOT respectful in response to his massive display of disrespect)

*Her husband has **full confidence in her**  
and lacks nothing of value.*

*Prov 31:11*

My husband consistently expresses an utter lack of confidence in me. He acts as if I am trying to steal his money. He accused daughter- Keren (16) yesterday of deliberately setting out to take advantage of him financially and screw him out of as much money as possible.

In his HEAD, we are all leeches selfishly sucking off of him.

Oddly enough, his income has quadrupled. He made 6 figures for the first time last year. But he still seems to resent "sharing it" with his children and wife.

At least this time, there was no domestic violence over the lies he believes in his head (see "Processing the Pain" above).

I could write paragraph after paragraph about the ways in which I have worked and sacrificed for my husband's financial gain and benefit. I'll spare you the details. His Grandma once said about me that "she pinches every penny until it SCREAMS". I'm not sure she meant that as a "compliment" but I am not ashamed of my thriftiness.

Did your father SCREW YOU financially???

He never tires of reminiscing about how hard he worked on his father's dairy farm as a boy. The girls got to play with their ponies while the boys worked. And his father would remind him that the boys would have an inheritance and the girls wouldn't.

His father died a few years ago at age 68. My husband was not in the will. His sisters were not in the will. His brother inherited everything. He was cut out of the inheritance right alongside the girls.

### **STOP visiting your father's iniquity upon us!!!**

I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, **visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children** unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; Ex 20:5

Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; **visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.** Ex 34:7

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## **January 26, 2009**

The typical christian teaching is that a wife is not to "correct" the husband in front of the children, but this does not work.

1. No matter how many times and how "respectfully" he is approached behind closed doors he doesn't stop it
2. The children do not realize they have an advocate, someone who understands the injustice and is willing to defend them and set the record straight.

I now stand up for them immediately and in their presence. Hubby hates it. But last night Joey (6) told me "Mommy, thank you for defending me". And yesterday, Keren (16) came in to me and said "Mom, please forgive me for all the times I have treated you disrespectfully."

Joey (6) used a potty word a\*\*hole in Sunday School. Susy (11) told daddy. Daddy proceeds to scream at Joey and heap massive piles of "shame on you", what a SHAME to say that in CHURCH. And then when Joey (hurt and afraid) said "I don't want to ride on the lawn mower with you anymore" (his favorite thing in the world) his father says "GOOD, I'M GLAD!" [do you hear the **rejection**?]

I said, "STOP shaming and humiliating him. YOU use those words. What's the difference? The difference is your son is no hypocrite. He's honest enough to go to church without a mask. He doesn't **PRETEND** that he is 'righteous'"

Hubby chastised me for "undermining his discipline of the children". His chastisement didn't bother me one bit. I did the right thing.

(Susy came up in Joey's room when I was doing their bedtime prayers and hugged him and told him she was sorry for getting him in trouble, she didn't know daddy would YELL at him like that, she was hoping he would just talk calmly to him about not repeating that kind of language.)

~~~~~

## **March 23, 2009 "the iniquity of the fathers upon the children"**

Joey (6) injured a little 6 year old girl in his first grade. She had to be taken to the emergency room and have 7 stitches. He got angry at her on the playground for calling him a name and he threw a swing at her.

Hubby blamed: watching "the Simpson's", and playing computer games.

Is it possible that this has anything to do with Joey's life experience, things he has seen, heard, experienced: like heat deprivation as a baby, or verbal abuse episodes, or watching his mother and his teenage sister pushed around?

Hubby doesn't know. I didn't ask him. I signed 8 year old Timothy up for counseling at the school. Timothy is uncorrectable. His teacher called it "arrogant" He thinks he's always right. Dear Lord, can we nip this in the bud before he grows up and follows his daddy's role model?

I mentioned school counseling for Joey. Hubby said, "you don't know what these people are going to do to him. She might tell him his problem is that he's a latent homosexual". Well, I suppose I'll call and talk to her, find out her approach... I didn't remind my husband that it wasn't a counselor who taught him that as a child, it was his father. His father was afraid he'd be a homosexual (based on some pre-school sexual acting out) so daddy made sure his son had access to plenty of porn so that he would "like women".

"for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God,  
visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children  
unto the third and fourth generation  
of them that hate me," Deut 5:9

Does this sound like I am blaming my husband? like I am failing to take responsibility for my own contribution? I was a basket case, very stressed, overwhelmed, and PTSD for several years of Joey's childhood. Believe me, I do feel guilt and responsibility for my failures.

~~~~~

## 7. The Whirlwind of Betrayal, the Pain of Adultery

### **May 8, 2009**

It wasn't "just workaholicism".

He had a girlfriend he was screwing.

God told me the pain I was feeling was betrayal, so I pressed him.

He said he didn't want to tell me before Joanne's wedding.

"What's Joanne's wedding got to do with it?"

He didn't want to "rock the boat"

He wanted to "pretend."

~~~~~

### **May 9, 2009 The Whirlwind of Betrayal**

I attended a retreat last weekend. Last Friday, I caught my husband with nicotine gum. Turned out, after several days of me pressing and him obfuscating, he confessed to having a smoking habit which he started last year in Turkey and hid for an entire year, then he started nicotine gum. He's not the same man I married. The man I married could not have hidden such a thing. The man I married was transparent to a fault, to his own detriment.

I told my 2 friends about this at the retreat and Lisa observed that its a spirit of deception and it gives the devil a foothold.

May 3, I was feeling so much emotional pain and I could not identify it. I asked for prayer. The ladies prayed over me and one of them prophesied that she saw me heading into a very dark whirlwind. Do not be afraid. Cling to God. He will keep you. He will hide you in the cleft of the rock. She said that the whirlwind was coming from the north and the army of the Lord was going before me. We were outside, and right at that moment 2 US army planes flew very low over our heads going north.

I was upset. I wanted healing, but I'm getting a whirlwind.

I kept feeling ever so much pain. Tuesday I met with my friends and didn't speak of it, but one of the ladies was sharing how God had showed her that "abandonment" was an issue affecting her life and relationships.

So, when I was home I asked God what this pain is.

HE told me it was betrayal.

I thought maybe HE meant old stuff...

No, its not old stuff.

After I pressed Ron as to what else he is hiding from me besides the smoking. Did he use prostitutes in Turkey? No, he didn't use prostitutes in Turkey. He had a girlfriend at work and he was screwing her for months. "Its over now" he says.

He's right.

Its over now.

I intend to get a lawyer.

The prophecy said that after the whirlwind, the sun would come out.

~~~~~

## **May 9, 2009 Letter to Adult Children**

I feel that as our adult children, you need to know about this. Your father, upon my pressing, admitted last night that he carried on an adulterous relationship for several months at the end of 2008. So, when I talked to Hannah last Fall in tears about his neglect of family time because of "workaholism" it was not just "workaholism" that kept him at work late- it was sex with the nighttime female janitor, mother of 4 young children. And when you were all here at Christmas and he made the wisecracks about the author of a book I was reading having "penis envy" the insulting disrespectful words were proceeding forth from the mouth of a man who was being unfaithful.

I have decided to pursue divorce. Believe it or not, its not so much the adultery as it is the routine, long term disrespect toward me as his wife and the mother of his children. (the "penis envy" insult being just one example of thousands in an atmosphere of disrespect) The adultery is step 10, where suddenly he manages to show a semblance of having a tiny bit of conscience. On steps 1-9 he proceeds full steam ahead self justifying at every turn with no sign of remorse and with complete and utter disregard toward my feelings and values regarding the drinking, porn use, strip clubbing, smoking, etc. (that he has been smoking ever since Turkey and covering it up, and that he was strip clubbing with co-workers also came out this past week)

I am terribly sorry for raising you children in an atmosphere of such routine disrespect. You were all victims of it too, and that is my fault for tolerating it. I pray that the generational curses will be broken in your generation.

Joanne, we will behave as adults for your wedding and the precursors. I really wanted to tell you about this now, well enough beforehand to get over any shock before we all meet for the very joyous occasion of your marriage.

Its better if you don't call. I won't be able to talk. I'm very upset.

I don't anticipate sharing with the younger children detailed reasons for the divorce. I would appreciate your sensitivity and discretion. Thank You. Things will not be a whole lot different for them, as he has basically been living in the house in the city during the week. I will keep this house, and he will keep that one.

~~~~~

## **May 10, 2009**

Dear Children,

Your father seems remorseful. Perhaps I am foolish for doing so, but I have decided to put the pursuit of divorce on hold and give it some time. I would appreciate your prayers. I don't want to offer any cheap forgiveness. I feel like I did that in 1990 and paid for it in pain for 2 decades. I won't spend the rest of my life being disrespected by the person who made vows, so this remains tenuous. Suddenly he seems willing to "do what it takes", but we'll see if that resolve lasts. I am not willing to trust his honesty and commitment at this point.

Its OK if you call for mother's day.

Love you all,  
Mom

~~~~~

## **May 11, 2009**

The grief is heavy.

I'm really not sure I can be his wife anymore.

I have no motivation to even try.

There is so much distance, just absolutely no connection and nothing in common with him (except 8 children and some community property).

a few weeks ago, the Lord laid on my heart the passage about having this treasure in jars of clay and being

*hard pressed on every side but not crushed  
perplexed but not in despair  
persecuted but not abandoned  
struck down but not destroyed*

I thought God was laying that on my heart because of the financial uncertainty, the job tenuousness.

Maybe. But that is not all.

~~~~~

## **May 11, 2009**

Over the weekend, my husband told me that recently he had asked God about my "unsubmissiveness". And God showed him that even though I have a hard exterior, that I have a very submissive heart.

He's treated me like I'm the "mother". Anything I say is to be rebelled against. Nothing I say is to be heard and respected.

There is an "unsubmissive" in this marriage.

Its not me.

~~~~~

## **May 25, 2009 Letter to My Children #3**

Dear Adult Children,

Two couples from the church have committed to meeting with your father and I biweekly to attempt to minister to us. I just want you to be praying because our marriage is hanging by a thread. Unless I see massive changes in his attitude toward me in the next 6 months, I will be filing for divorce.

Prayer can help, but your father has choices to make too, so don't feel bad if you pray and the answer to the prayers is "no, this marriage needs to be dissolved". Personally, I consider the marriage completely broken right now. The rubber stamp by a judge is just rubberstamping what already is. Living a lie, pretending there is something when there isn't, does not honor God. I do not want any of my children to think that its OK to treat another human being with continual ongoing disrespect, to never take responsibility for that, get at the roots, and change. I greatly regret some of the things you have been exposed to and I pray often with tears and travail that the evil you have witnessed will be turned around for good in your lives.

Love, Mom

PS. You can share this with people who will pray.

~~~~~

## 8. More Mean Episodes

### **July 7, 2009**

This weekend at a 4th of July party, my husband's faulty impulse controls upset me again, reminded me of the million times he has said cruel things. He said some cruel things to the host about their chunky 4 year old (in front of the child). He lost two professor jobs because of saying cruel insensitive things to students. I told him what bothers me most about this is that he is uncorrectable. When confronted with his cruelty, he does not own it, he justifies it, makes excuses, and defends himself. He's "right", the whole world is "wrong". And eventually, as happened this weekend when the teenagers chimed in with a couple more examples of his tendency to "open mouth, insert foot", he's "the poor persecuted victim". "Would you just stop picking on ME?"

~~~~~

### **Feb 10, 2010 Journal Entry**

I was hurt yet again today because I can't see the writing on the burner Knobs anymore (my close-up vision is poor) and I was turning the wrong one and he goes on and on with condescending remarks about my stupidity and how after 15 years of the same stove I should have the location of the burners memorized, and how I must be "faking" having difficulty, and blah blah blah blah BLAH. Instead of seizing a perfect opportunity to step up to the plate and HELP me to light the burner with kindness and respect he spews forth a sickening stream of criticism and condescension...

and then he tried to pray a BLESSING on me as I went out the door to work

I said, DON'T BOTHER. GOD CANNOT HEAR YOU BECAUSE YOU DO NOT LIVE WITH YOUR WIFE IN AN UNDERSTANDING WAY!

and it reminds me of last week when he wanted me to steer his broken tractor backwards out of the field and I wasn't doing it right... on and on and on and ON in a loud angry voice about how after driving for 30 years, I can't steer and how I must be faking incompetence because I really don't want to help him blah blah blah BLAH

He really makes himself utterly undesirable to be around with his assumptions, disrespect, and lack of empathy.

NOT that I should EVER have to defend myself for being HUMAN... but  
The BROKEN tractor was incredibly hard to steer (there is no power steering and it must  
weight 5 tons) and we were going BACKWARDS. My EYES don't work right anymore and I  
have better things to do with my time than MEMORIZE which knobs correspond to which  
burner on the stove!

~~~~~

## **March 18, 2010**

This morning as I listened to my husband yelling and carrying on with the two little boys as they got ready for school, I found myself ever so frustrated that after all his time under supposed "christian" influence and discipleship, that he constantly uses "shame on YOU" messages with them, and its for things which are mere childish irresponsibility. Tim (9) couldn't find socks; Joey (7) had on snow boots instead of sneakers. (Where was I? Why didn't I come to the rescue? I was still laying down trying to get past a blooming migraine. And I am out at work most mornings lately so he is generally doing that gig solo)

I am afraid my sons are going to have a great deal of baggage to deal with because their father has not made any progress in overcoming his propensity to be harsh :( He was looking at a professor job online yesterday and I reminded him of the 4 professor jobs he lost and that he just doesn't seem cut out for that. (I think its due to his complete lack of empathy and compassion. Students can feel it when you think they are a complete idiot for not "getting it" even if you don't say it out loud) He said that his last department head who let him go told him that the final straw was when he heard him chewing out a student and how way overboard harsh he is.

~~~~~

## 9. Deeply Lonely, Pressing on Getting my Ducks in a Row

### **April 28, 2010 Often I feel Deeply Lonely**

To be honest, I am fearful of my husband finding another job. He seems to be able to behave himself when he is home. He's not using porn or drinking. But there are still HUGE unresolved spiritual issues and strongholds in his life. Does he need to remain shelved to stay out of trouble?

We spent last week with our oldest daughter in Kentucky. She will marry this June.

While we were away, the car broke down, and we were treated to the standard "woe is me! God is soooooo mean! Why does He always pick on ME and everyone else has such a blessed life" self-pity and fist shaking anger at God. Sarah (15) was incredibly insightful! She gave a mini sermon on James 1 "consider it all JOY when you experience various trials for the testing of your faith produces endurance". My husband sounded mocking as he shouted at God in a loud angry voice "I'M SO HAPPY THAT THE CAR BROKE DOWN!" Sarah explained that he is interpreting the passage wrong: JOY is not the same as HAPPINESS. We can have JOY even when something is stressful and hard.

My husband has been on unemployment nearly a year now. He recently e-mailed several people from his last job to ask if they are willing to give him a good reference. I think all of them responded that they are willing to give him a reference, but he was stewing because they did not say they are willing to give him a "GOOD reference". I find his attitude paranoid and a failure to think the best of these people. I met them and they seemed like very decent human beings and one does not agree to give a reference only to turn around and screw the person. He still gets a chip on his shoulder about losing that job and it seems to me that judging these co-workers is a way to blameshift. The way I see it, God treated him with undeserved mercy and grace to merely lose the job in a broadscale layoff due to a financial downturn rather than to be fired in public humiliation.

The Facts:

- He was screwing a co-worker during her working hours (though it was after his, she was the night janitor).

- He was also routinely drinking and driving. Just this weekend at work, the girls said the nursing home administrator (the highest person on site) was arrested for drinking and driving. It's a felony. And if one has children in the car, it includes automatic jail time for child endangerment. One would be blackballed forevermore from any job which requires a background check- such as working at a nursing home.

So he whines about losing this job. God is soooooo mean! His co-workers are soooooo mean!

I recited to him the facts listed above and told him that he is dead wrong not to be THANKING GOD for his MERCY AND GRACE at how easy he got off.

He said to me. "You're right. I should be thankful for a wife like you who is willing to open her legs." He says things that are shockingly insensitive, often sexual comments. I suppose that its progress on my part, I really just brush it off. It doesn't hurt.

However, often I find myself feeling deeply lonely. My marriage is not a partnership of adults. I don't feel that I register as a person. His view of God as mean, angry, punishing, vindictive, withholding blessing is not the God I know. His view of me as a sex object is not the me I know. I judge his god is made in the image of his daddy and his view of women is based on "the empty way of life handed down from your forefathers," 1 Peter 1:18.

Such experiences reveal to me a distorted view of God and women. He has not dealt with the roots in his heart that have lead him down the path to adultery: first- on the Muslim mission field in 1990; and again at the end of 2008.

## **January 4, 2011 One day at a time. Hands wide open letting go. . .**

Composed a Letter to my husband today. 2010 closed with

- a HUGE chip on his shoulder surrounding holiday parties because he couldn't drink without violating his commitment to me not to drink to save the marriage and
- a New Year's Eve anger episode toward Timothy- our 10 year old son.

Attempting to talk about the issues just brings self-justification, defensiveness, and the clarity that he has a whole lot of resentment toward me. I'm "REBELLIOUS" and I "will REGRET" standing up to him in front of the children. Susy asked if he is going to hurt me

and he said, no but GOD will see to it that I REGRET IT. He thinks he has allies in some of the counselors we have seen and suggested taking me in to counseling so they can set me straight about "correcting him in front of the children".

[Unsent] Letter to my husband:

*Never mind the talking. Talking doesn't help. It just confirms to me that nothing has changed since the day we first walked into Sam's office [marriage counselor-2004].*

*You asked me "what can I do that is different from what I am doing already?"*

*I guess you need to get with God and figure that out on your own.*

*Let me know when you have replaced the attitude of resentment for my "interference" with your preferred lifestyle choices and parenting behavior with an attitude of gratitude, appreciation, respect. Let me know when you no longer consider me the bitch for whom you constantly "jump through hoops with no appreciation" with a view of me as your beloved GOD given ezer-life-saving help-meet partner and companion for whom you will lay down your life only to find it. If you would like to see a counselor with the goal of trading your resentment, bitterness, and anger toward me, and your angry harsh treatment of the children for healthier behavior, I could be on board for that. Perhaps you should consider individual counseling though(?), because if I go to counseling with you, I will not be "FIXED" and prevented from standing up for the children. I want them to know as much as I am able that parental anger and harshness is NOT their issue (unfortunately, I don't think I have the power to undo all the harm even when I stand up for them immediately, but I do the best I can under the circumstances and have no intention of going back to correcting you "behind closed doors" which never worked and quite clearly still doesn't work as evidenced by our several conversations in the past few days).*

*One day at a time. Hands wide open letting go.*

Unsent because I don't think it will do any good. . .

How clear it has become to me that THE ISSUE which destroys "christian marriages" is being un-correctable. When I attempt to hold my husband accountable for something, instead of receiving it and apologizing, he is like a bucking bronco and I feel his hooves stomping all over me.

The truth is that there are many times when I have been irritable, frustrated, angry and harsh with the children. But they can call me on it and I will apologize and make sure they know it is mommy's issue and not their fault. And my husband can call me on it, "You were too harsh with Sarah" and I tell her "Daddy's right, I was too harsh, I'm sorry".

The day we walked in Sam's office in 2004, THE ISSUE with my husband is that he was uncorrectable. That hasn't changed. Here's a link to ["correction" verses in the NIV Bible](#).

One day at a time. Hands wide open letting go.

Not sure what 2011 will bring? I had a disturbing dream about the house burning to the ground (which I would take not as a literal "burning down" but symbolic- if it is even prophetic ???)

I have no power on the choices of another, but I have power with respect to **my own goals**. For 2011,

- **I am resolved** to continue school full time toward my RN so that I will be able to support the family if necessary.
- Now that my achilles tendon is mostly healed from being run over by my husband with the Tahoe last summer, **I am resolved** to resume an exercise regimen- which I find very therapeutic in managing stress.
- And last but not least, **I am resolved** to maintain a deep intimate relationship with my beloved Lord.

~~~~~

## 10. Watershed Moment- Realizing that this Atmosphere Nearly Killed my Child

### Seven Years May 21, 2014

Husband is always saying that 7 years is a Biblical number.

For 7 years now, I have been standing up for the children against verbal abuse. When Timothy was age 7 (see [January 21, 2008](#))

Today, 14 year old Timothy is hospitalized on an adolescent psych unit for suicidal ideation. Here is my account of the episode with his father which tipped him over the edge.

*Husband is good looking and charming, looks like George Clooney and often mistaken for 20 years younger than his chronological age. He successfully twists the account of his actions to minimize them.*

*He recounts to Tim's counselor in an ever so gentle, quiet, and charming voice, "I was so concerned for him that he not make mistakes I made when I was a teenager so I shared with him how I got into drugs and illegal activity, dropped out of school, and worked as a garbage man"*

*Not how it was. Not how it was AT ALL. In angry loud voice he said*

*"YOU are going to be a drug addict, dropout just like AJ down the street"*

*"YOU need to go to reform school"*

*"the only thing YOU will be able to do is be a garbage man"*

*Son cried. H Mocked his tears.*

*Son threw out ALL his school papers and said quietly "I don't need any of these anymore"*

I wish I had it recorded.

God does. [Matthew 12:36 But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.](#)

After counseling the morning of "drug dealer, drop out, reform school, garbage man" episode, Pam said, "Take Tim to the emergency room. I cannot guarantee his safety. He has a suicide plan and means to carry it out". The suicide plan he confessed to was to jump off a bridge at a park 12 miles away but after he had been in the hospital for a week, we found a loaded cocked gun hidden in the attic.

After the counseling appt when the counselor told us there are huge red flags: he feels hopeless, no reason to live, has a plan, etc. H said to him in the car on the way home (angry contemptuous voice):

- you're being manipulative
- GO AHEAD AND BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT! I'm not going to walk around on egg shells

## "GO AHEAD AND BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT"

(Note: Helen, the counselor of summer 2014 says that words like that from a father to his son never go away. Never.)

Today, I accepted my husband's offer to move out of the house. (written May 21, 2014. However, I moved Timothy to KY to stay with Daniel away from his father for the summer following his discharge. Meanwhile, Ron **promised to get counseling and change his MO with the children**. I gave him 6 months. There were no changes and he lays the blame for all marriage problems at my feet and blames issues with the children on defects in them while taking no responsibility for his behavior and its impact.)

For 7 years I have attempted to hold him accountable and make him stop the verbal abuse. Seven years is the Biblical number of completion.

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### **Journal entry just after Christmas 2014**

On Christmas Eve when we celebrated our Christmas at home:

- *Ron told Joey to carry some boxes downstairs, dropped one, was upset about it. Ron rebuked him hard enough that Joey came to me upset "why does Dad have to ruin Christmas?"*
- *Ron got on Joey repeatedly about what Joey was eating (again, this is CHRISTMAS and they got candy in their stockings. Why is Ron so judgmental and shaming about weight????)*
- *Ron got on Timothy repeatedly about losing his shoes- this is related to the fact that Ron bought him those shoes last year. It comes across as "SHAME ON YOU!!!!" Kids lose things. Timothy lost his IPOD and considers that a big trigger to his near suicide last spring (probably afraid of the HUGE OVERREACTION AND SHAMING)*
- *Even got on the dog. Ron rebuked her and sent her away (refused to pet her) because she did not want to go for a walk with him.*

*On Christmas Day spent in Syracuse with his family- drank lots with his family. Brought a full glass of alcohol into the car. I asked him to dump it and he refused.*

*Alcohol use/abuse huge trigger for me- has caused a great deal of hurt- and that is the last straw. I don't have to justify anything. I have put out a fleece for continuing with Ron, but have no expectation that the result will favor that.*

Ron KNOWS that drinking is a trigger for me yet could not do something as tiny and trivial as not get into the car with an open container.

~~~~~

## **February 2015**

We had planned a family trip to Puerto Rico for months. One week before the plane flight, Ron nearly assaulted Timothy, raised his fists to him, grabbed him by the shirt and kicked him into the car. Why? To go to church. Tim didn't want to go.

Timothy told me last year that if his dad ever attempted to spank him again he was going to defend himself with a fireplace poker. He's 15 and big enough to do it. Ron's first cousin killed his father with a baseball bat.

Sooooooooo, I did not want the two of them on that vacation together and we agreed to cancel Ron's ticket. I still lived in the house. I was on vacation. Almost the first minute I walked in the door upon my return, he solicited me for sex and I said "as long as you haven't been sleeping with anyone else". He had been having sex with Cheryl during that family vacation. I moved Timothy to Kentucky before me and put in my notice but the job requires 4 weeks notice so I was stuck.

I had already bought the house here. We had already seen the lawyer and started the process. But we also had come back from the brink before so I had not given up on the marriage and that last month living in the house with him while he was engaged in an ongoing sexual relationship with Cheryl was hell.

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## **I am Weak (3/2016)**

I am weak.

I can't bear the name-calling  
toward myself

toward the children

Joey is not a "wuz"

Timmy is not an "idiot"

Sarah is not "retarded"

Susy is not "lazy"

I am not a "bitch"

I am weak

I can't bear the role modeling

Even if you are not willing to admit that your family has any addiction issues

MY family has alcoholism

In class I just read about the genetic link for alcoholism

That gene could be in my children  
My nephew had that role model  
and hit a tree while drunk driving at age 17  
he survived, but has a brain stem injury  
I can't control what you role model  
but I refuse to be party to it  
its unacceptable  
I won't live with it  
I won't approve of it  
Lord please let them learn  
the lesson I live  
and not the one you live  
Protect them Lord!

I am weak

I loathe your drinking.

How many times have you been unfaithful "under the influence"?

It is triggering, an "achilles heel", a weak spot which cuts me deeply and pushes the legs  
right out from under me emotionally and spiritually when the attack is there.

Satan knows that, and by your choices, you have made yourself his accomplice in  
undermining my emotional and spiritual health..

BUT, the DRINKING is not

"the problem".

Its a symptom

In my judgment, the problem is  
flesh

I am weak

You think I want to "control you"?

I DO want to control my environment, my household.

I want an environment which is safe, kind, respectful, considerate.

And I believe GOD wants my household to be that way,  
and my household WILL be that way

I am weak

your flesh causes me to stumble

you won't crucify your flesh

Goodbye

I am weak

"if \_\_\_\_\_ causes you to stumble, cut it off!"

Yes, Lord!

I will cut off the head that causes me to stumble

and move forward by myself, but not alone

I will no longer partake of the deceptive fruit and follow Adam out of the garden

I choose to live in freedom and victory

walking with the Lord in the cool of the day

I am weak

But He is strong

## 11. Making Amends to Ron

### Step 9 Letter to Ron November 9, 2015

Part of the 12 step recovery programs I am involved with is to make amends to anyone we have harmed and I have some amends to make with you.

I am sorry for not being able to let go of the betrayals, for rehearsing them in my mind and feeling continually hurt and angry even years after. Sometimes you complained about feeling attacked and I am not proud of my inability to get closure and the angry result. Especially the past 5 years I feel that I was not as good of a person as I was before- I spiraled downhill and betrayed my own core by stewing a great deal over preserving our relationship and making unholy compromises with things that really are deal breakers for me and I can't live with and maintain serenity (because of the history surrounding them).

I am sorry for thinking that I was supposed to help you to embrace a journey of healing and recovery as I have done. In 2004, when I was frustrated for not helping me with my difficult and painful work on childhood baggage, in prayer in the woods, I believed God told me that "YOU are the help meet. He is not supposed to help you. You are supposed to help him." It seemed so clear and I took it very seriously. I also bought into that whole "Matthew 18" business they used to talk about all the time on the forum and now I see that as misguided advise- never once have I seen it work as advertised and it comes across controlling and judgmental.

In the programs we learn that we cannot fix, control it, cure nor did we did not cause the disease and I regret attempting to provoke a "road to Damascus" for you by saying the same things over and over in a million different ways. I really am powerless over your issues- as the first step says.

I'm sorry for often lacking in spiritual fruit- for having such a struggle with anger and regulating my emotional reactions. This has been a huge frustration for me- making me feel ashamed and guilty and like a failure as a Christian for my unChristlike behavior.

This note is sent with a prayer that we may both be able to forgive each other and forget what lies behind (without getting alzheimers- LOL). I still want no contact and a divorce on biblical grounds.

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## 12. Post Divorce Recognition of the Narcissism

### **December 2016 status post divorce (finalized April 19, 2016)**

I would not have divorced except that Kentucky has some archaic marriage laws that subject MY property to seizure to satisfy his obligation (even with legal separation and division of assets completed). He engages in risky behavior- having sex with subordinates from and even at jobsites; drinking and driving; texting and driving, etc. Should he get sued, they would come after me.

Crazy as it sounds, I was addicted to hopium (as Tracy Schorn would put it). His relationships with other women STILL feel like betrayal and I STILL have a tiny sliver of hope that he might have a "road to Damascus experience" like Paul and realize that he hurt and lost the woman God gave him to be his wife, the perfect match made in heaven for him, the best woman he will ever have who never had anything but his spiritual welfare and best interests at heart.

In the process of reflecting on the journey, I have realized that he is a narcissist.

Some Characteristics of a Narc – things to watch out for: *[my comments in brackets]*

1. They lie
2. They look down on others *[yes- especially anyone perceived as weak and inferior]*
3. They refuse to take responsibility *[Would not (could not?) take responsibility for the impact of his behavior on others. Someone else must be blamed and shamed]*
4. They are two-faced *[God yes! A different story for the wife, the lover, the children, whatever made him come out smelling better. I used to call his version of episodes "The revised self-sanctified version". He had such uncanny ability to twist things so that he came out sounding like "Saint Ronald"]*
5. They can be vindictive
6. They prefer laughing AT people than WITH them *[He got such a kick out of making a teenage daughter cry, would lean his head back and LAUGH at her with a big belly laugh]*

7. They are bullies [*Yes. See 6. It was him who made her cry. He loved to push buttons, at times the way he seemed to take delight and get energy and power from hurting someone seemed downright sadistic*]
8. They are very childlike [*Yes. Has difficulty engaging. Goes to bringing movie actor names into it instead of engaging with the conversation*]
9. They believe that no matter what happens they will prevail – because they see themselves as being invincible [*Nothing is his fault. He is Saint Ronald, the innocent victim. Anyone and everyone else is to blame for the job losses, relationship issues, etc.*]
10. They believe that whatever bad things they do, they will be forgiven and will ultimately triumph [*Yes. See comment on number 9. And if one relationship goes south, there are plenty of fish ready to have sex with him. He has a tool, he knows how to use it, and he will not have any problem finding a wet place to put it!*]
11. They are fearless to the point of being insanely unrealistic [*The continued flirting with the law- drinking and driving, texting and driving, driving without a motorcycle license. The pride in the insane skiing.*]
12. They have persistent fantasies about attaining success, power and wealth – they are obsessed with it
13. They are incapable of compromise and need to win [*God yes! Would not take responsibility for anything. Expert at deflection- turning things around so the spotlight is off him*]
14. They thrive on evoking reactions and emotions – whether negative or positive – both give them a “high” [*Yes yes YES, a thousand times yes! At times the manipulation was so clear. The way he would deliberately push my buttons to inflict the maximum hurt and provoke the maximum reaction, and then sit back and enjoy his handiwork, get a power rush off it as well as the ability to convincingly lay all the marriage issues at MY feet with him smelling like a rose.*]
15. They cheat on their partners [*Absolutely! He told me that having sex with someone while on the road was no different than going out to eat at a restaurant. It is merely an appetite that needs to be satisfied elsewhere when home cooking is not available*]
16. They are NOT capable of “real” love as normal people know it. They are more interested in being in control and feeling important and special than ever being loved by someone [*Sam said "most controlling client he ever had in 10 years of practice as a licensed clinical psychologist". He was stable with the marriage as long as everything revolved around him, as long as he had complete "authority"/control to make every decision and do whatever HE wanted to do with everyone following along*]

*like baggage. It was hell for me- like a concentration camp. Everything was peachy for him until I started going through recovery and reclaiming a voice]*

17. They manipulate people to go against their own values willingly [*The last 5 years of the marriage I compromised my own core values and allowed my boundaries to be steamrolled with the alcohol and betrayals. Not proud of the person I was- so weak and desperate to make the marriage work!*]
18. They USE people as puppets, pawns and commodities, burning them out and then moving on to their next victim. [*very utilitarian- wife and children are appliances to serve him, not people to see and love]*
19. They do not value people, do not miss them or love them because that involves bonding emotionally at various levels and the ability to bond is MISSING [*Never bonded, never grieved a marriage of 30+ years, views vaginas as interchangeable. It really is about the sex not about the woman attached to the sex organ]*

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## Postscript: Note for Hannah and Daniel

### **December 2016**

There is not much in here about episodes with Hannah and Daniel. Daniel you remember roofing the little house with Hannah when you were about 19? There was such a level of criticism and lack of confidence in your ability, such disrespect and harshness, I remember you being very upset and Hannah reminding you that it is no reflection on you- it is Dad's issue. I remember when you were about 11 in Mount Vernon and we were helping Evy unloading some books. Your father was harsh and critical with you and she looked at him with a shocked look... He had lost his job teaching and I think she had an inkling why (although I was still in the dark at that time).

Hannah, I remember when you were a baby of 2 and you wet and some got on him. You quickly jumped to soothe him, "That's OK daddy, it will dry". A 2 year old soothing her daddy seems a bit of a role reversal. You were already a peacekeeper, trying to avoid the wrath. At the time I role modeled that and it is not the best way to be. Peacekeeping sometimes pushes things under the rug which would be better off dealt with.