



STRAIGHT TALK

ministries



DECEMBER 2013 VOL. 10, ISSUE 4

You Ruined My Life!!!

Doing what I do for as long as I have, I never know where I am going to run into people who recognize me because they have heard me speak. The other day I was Christmas shopping and the clerk who was helping me finalize my transaction said “You look really familiar, I feel like we have met but I don’t know where.” My response was “I do get around, I speak to students quite a bit.” “That’s it! You spoke at a retreat I attended as a student years ago.”

When this happens it is not unusual for those people to remind me of the event and sometimes they share interesting information. “You are hilarious! I remember the story about...” Another comment I am hearing more these days is “My mom told me you spoke at a retreat she was at when she was in High School.” (It is almost always moms who have heard me speak- and more and more it is not High School it’s Jr. High School! How is it that these children have teenagers? This is the 20th Christmas I have celebrated since Straight Talk began, but somehow I can’t get my head around getting older!)



This past fall I had another of those encounters. It was a woman with a couple of children who talked to me after I spoke at a church service. She reminded me of an event I spoke at many years earlier. I vaguely remembered the event. With great detail she recalled what I had spoken on and how the event had transpired. She then said “I was so mad at you! I was convinced you had ruined

For Unto Us is Born This Day in the City of Spokane???

What could be more exciting than a Christmas baby? I have often heard my mother-in-law, Alice Carter, tell of getting the turkey in the oven one Christmas Day just before heading off to the hospital to give birth to her first son, my husband Randy. New life is exciting anytime, but there is something special about Christmas beginnings.



I had the privilege to partner with Life Center Church in Spokane this Christmas season to share how we can enter into life transforming friendship with the one who was the first ever Christmas baby. Clearly God had been preparing hearts. There were close to 400 women present on that Friday night and 300 on Saturday. When I gave the invitation to invite Jesus into their lives, so many responded, there was no way I could count. Many others made the decision to return to a friendship with Jesus after having allowed painful experiences to create distance between themselves and God.

One woman found me in the restroom after the event. She told me how the Holy Spirit had worked in her heart through my talk. I had accurately described her situation. She was dis-

my life!!!” (Yes, she said it with three exclamation marks.) “Thank you!” She went on to explain how she had been dating an unsaved boy even though she was a believer. He would come to youth group and occasionally church for her sake, but made it clear he was not interested in any “God stuff”. She felt she loved him and was hopeful he would eventually come around to accepting Jesus. He had come to the event. Among the sessions I gave that weekend apparently was my purity talk. She told me that I had upset him so much that after the weekend he gave her an ultimatum... dump the church stuff or he would dump her. She was angry because she felt that I had put her in the position where she had to choose.

Then she thanked me because that was a turning point for her and her relationship with Jesus. She choose to fully follow Jesus even though it cost her someone she loved. She has since met an AMOG (Awesome, Man Of God), has a couple of little kids, is involved in her church, and loves Jesus. If that weekend had not taken place she doesn't know what life would look like for her.

This is just one of the (until now) unknown stories of heart change and life change that God allows us to be a part of. It is humbling to know that there is a huge team of prayer and financial supporters who make it possible for us to be in the right place and at the right time so that God can use us to be a part of that heart and life change He wants to bring. As always, thank you for the part you play!

Donna and I both trust you will have a blessed Christmas and that you will overwhelmed by the wonder of his love expressed through Immanuel!

We appreciate you remembering Straight Talk as you plan your year end giving. 2/3 of our annual budget comes from donors like you!

appointed with God for allowing a profound loss in her life, but that night, she had decided to go back to him and allow him to walk with her through her pain.

Many of us suffer deep grief at Christmastime. We need more than a touching story to warm our hearts for an hour or two. We need a hope with which to anchor our hearts to God. We need to lean into intimate friendship with Jesus and grab hold of the hope of Immanuel: **God with us**. My recent grief journey, along with the message of *Friend Me* have uniquely equipped me to deliver this message with passion and authenticity. God is redeeming my pain to draw women to himself.



My most accurate guess is that 60-70 women were reborn in Spokane that weekend. This is the first Christmas they will grasp the true meaning of Jesus' birth on this planet: the promise of His presence. **We are not alone. God is with us. Life's struggles, hurts and losses cannot crush us.** Those of us who share a deep friendship with Jesus are never without hope. Thank you for partnering with me to share this hope with others, and celebrating with me the new birth of many Christmas babies.

Find us:



Straight Talk Ministries
Donna Carter

www.straighttalkministries.com



Donna—STMDonnaC

www.donnacarter.org

Straight Talk Ministries is annually reviewed by an independent public accounting firm. Financial statement is available upon request.

Tax Receipts are issued annually for gifts over \$10.00.

Charitable Registration #0996611-49

Spending of Funds is confined to board approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution towards a board approved program or project will be used as designated, with the understanding that when the need for such a program has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for such programs or projects will be used where needed most.



I want to make a difference by investing in Straight Talk:

- With a gift of \$ _____
- By Praying.** Join our weekly prayer team. Email: admin@straighttalkministries.com

I want to support Straight Talk monthly:

- \$250 \$100 \$75
- \$50 \$ _____

Monthly Giving Options

I have included post-dated cheques to Straight Talk Ministries

Giving on line.

You can give on line with Visa or Mastercard through Canada helps.

Go to Canada Helps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=d74727> and you can make your donation there today.

If your contact information has changed please let us know:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province _____ Postal _____

Donations can be mailed to:

Straight Talk Ministries
 38 River Rock Crescent SE
 Calgary, Alberta T2C 4J4

heart change

life change