



If I had a loonie for every time I've ...

straight talk ministries newsletter

The Million Loonie Question

How long did it take you to write your book? If I had a loonie for every time I've been asked that question, I'd be living on a beach in Maui! I never really know how to respond. The book began as a journal 12 years ago while I was trying to come to terms with my grief over the passing of my dearest, childhood friend, Sonja. In the next year or two it started morphing into a book. Between two nominations for BEST NEW CANADIAN AUTHOR, it spent several years languishing in the filing cabinet. After **10 Smart Things** was published, it drew the attention of a Canadian publisher. But now I was spoiled. I knew how the reach of a major US publisher compared with a small Canadian one. The

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manuscript continued to live in the drawer. And God continued

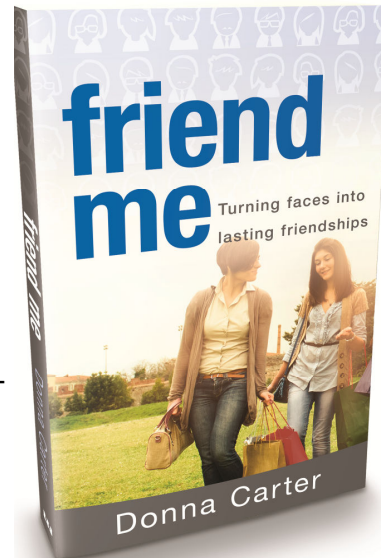


HEART CHANGE
LIFE CHANGE

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to write the story.

A year ago last June, God wrote the last chapter as Mike, the son of my dear friend, and our daughter Kend-all were married. With the circle of the story complete, God sent me an agent and a US publisher who could see the potential of this story, and all the lessons surrounding it, to draw women into deeper friendship with each other and with God.



This February, Whitaker House of Pennsylvania will release not only the book **Friend Me** *Turning Faces into Lasting Friendships*, but also curriculum pieces including a conversation guide and DVD

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He said

The Right Place at the Right Time

It is amazing to me how God works. Sarah* had taken the risk of praying out loud and some of her classmates from her Christian school laughed at her. I was part of the prayer time and I couldn't figure out what was so funny. It was clear in speaking with her afterwards she was really hurt. So hurt she didn't want to even come to the evening session or even stay at the retreat. As I spoke with her she shared that was the first time she had ever taken the risk of "doing that". Eventually with the help of some of her teachers we were able to convince her to at least come to the evening session.

After the session I wanted to acknowledge the pain it must have caused to take the risk of praying out loud for the first time and be laughed at. When I mentioned that to her she said "No! You don't understand, that is the first time I ever prayed, period!" *Just a second, I thought, you are a grade 12 student in a Christian school and you have never prayed?* As we talked it became clear to me she had never received Jesus. This was a bit of a surprise but what came next was a total shock. As we talked it became clear she didn't even understand the basics of the Christmas story! I found myself asking and answering lots of questions. I found out that she had only come to the school the previous year and she had

questions about Jesus but after asking one early in grade 11 and getting laughed at she decided she would just keep her questions to herself. At one point in our discussion I went all the way back to Genesis and walked through the Bible to Jesus birth, death and resurrection.

As we were coming to the end of our discussion I said "The last thing I want to do is make someone do something they don't want to do, but would like to become a Jesus follower by asking Jesus to forgive sin and let him be the boss of your life?" She got a broad grin on her face and said "Yes, right now! That is exactly what I want to do!" **I had the huge privilege of praying with her as she surrendered her life to Jesus!**

I got the be in the right place at the right time and as a result I got to be a part of seeing the trajectory of her life change!

Thank you for your part you in allowing me to be in the right place at the right time to see God change lives!

* Name has been changed



**"No!
You don't
understand,
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**You can check
out an article
Randy wrote on
mentoring In the
latest Alliance
Magazine pages
6&7**

<http://www.cmacan.org/magazine>

She said

The Engagement on the Way to the Engagement

I love the Biblical stories of how Jesus interacted with people. He was always on a mission, always had a plan, but he was always interruptible. The person in front of him at each given moment was the most important person on earth. Slowly I have been learning that what I think is the most important meeting of the day may not be God's most important assignment for me.

Two weekends ago I was in Saskatoon for some meetings with a major women's conference ministry leader. We sat in the coffee shop of the Holiday Inn discussing the Spring conference and making plans. A cute little Filipina served us breakfast and late, soft drinks. We chatted a bit with the friendly young girl as we sat and sat and talked and talked.



God places people in our paths..

Eventually the woman I was meeting with left the table to care for some arrangements and the girl came back to see if I needed anything. I'm sure she was wondering when on

earth we were going to leave. The restaurant was quiet and we chatted for a while. She told me she'd heard us talking about God and that she was kind of angry with God because of a painful rejection she had just endured. I asked if I could pray with her, and we prayed, right there in the restaurant. Afterward, she told me she was going to walk to the church down the street after work Sunday that afternoon to make things right with God.

This past weekend I flew to Edmonton to speak at an outreach event. In the airport as I waited to board the plane, I started chatting with another waiting passenger. She had separated from her husband only a week before and was really hurting. I invited her to the event I was speaking at that evening.

That night, I don't know for sure if Deanne was among them, but **10 women prayed to receive Christ!** I hope she was there. But if not, I suspect she will be reading 10 Smart Things, which may help her with her present situation, and also her eternal one.

God places people in our paths. I am so grateful for the opportunities he gives me in big settings and very intimate ones, to share the "hope that is within me". Thank you for providing the resources to pave the path for those God appointed encounters, big and small.



“Slowly I have been learning what I think is the most important meeting of the day may not be God’s most important assignment for me”



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teaching segments. Their plan and my hope is that this tool will be used all over North America and beyond in the same way as **10 Smart Things**--a means of engaging unchurched women in a topic of interest while speaking into their deepest spiritual need.

Thank you, to all our patient partners who have believed in this project and waited with me for God's timing. Thanks for your giving, which will enable Straight Talk to get it into the hands of those will use it to facilitate **Heart Change, Life Change!**

Your gifts make ministry possible

CanadaHelps.org: Visit straighttalkministries.com and follow the links to give online. It's safe and secure.

Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution towards such a program or project will be used as designated, with the understanding **the fine print** 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.

www.straighttalkministries.com

Help Us Finish 2012 Strong

Did you know that 2/3's of the annual Straight Talk budget is comprised of donations from those who believe in the mission and ministry of Straight Talk? We literally could not do what God has called us to do if it were not for many financial partners. We are dependant on year end giving for 25% of our total donations for the year. Thank you for prayerfully considering the part you can play in helping us see God Change Hearts and Lives.

heart change straight talk ministries

life change



- I want to make a difference by investing in Straight Talk:**
- Enable** Randy & Donna to challenge people with Biblical Truth \$ _____
 - Launch** *Friend Me*, Donna's new book \$ _____
 - Please use my gift where most needed \$ _____
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heart change

life change



Parent's Page

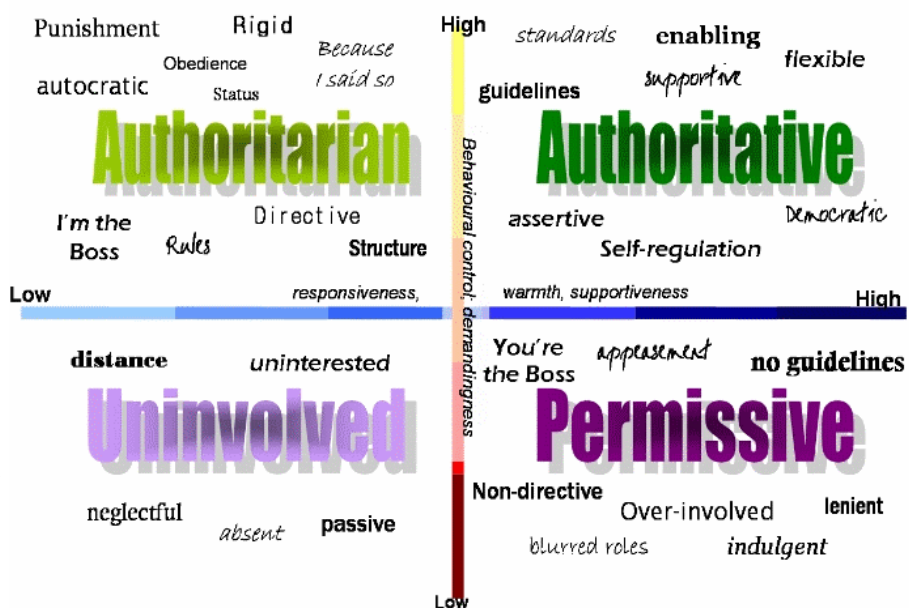
What's your parenting style?

When our girls were young teens I came across a study about parenting styles. The study indicated that parenting styles are determined by a balance of control and support. A very simplistic explanation of control and support is that control is about the direction, standards, expectations and discipline that we place **on** our kids.

Support is about love, nurture, encouragement and emotional engagement that we provide **for** our kids. We all parent with a mixture of these two elements.

- Low Control and Low Support = **Uninvolved Parent**
- High Control and Low Support = **Authoritarian Parent**
- Low Control and High Support = **Permissive Parent**
- High Control and High Support = **Authoritative Parent**

The question which is the best style with teens? Studies indicate that teens who have Authoritative parents tended to do the best academically, socially and emotionally. I was shocked that the second best outcome came from the Permissive parent.



Adolescence is a time of huge change for both kids and parents. A faulty belief parents accept in the teen years; our kids don't really need us anymore. **Nothing could be further from the truth.**

Students crave a relationship with their parents where they feel their support is as high as the control they exercise. As our students mature, the way we express our support will probably have to change. It seemed to me that during adolescence they tested the boundaries more vigorously than they did as children. There were many discussions surrounding why we set the boundaries we did. It also felt like I had to work a lot harder to express my support / emotional connection than I did when they were kids. It was during adolescence that I instituted a bi-weekly date with dad so I could at least try to express support. It seemed the better I did at support (connecting with them emotionally) the easier it was to exercise control (set healthy boundaries).

When our kids get into their teens they still need our control / boundaries and our support / emotional connection.

There is a website where you can take an online test to see what your parenting style is and explore this further. Check out <http://www.theyouthcentre.ca/parenting/ps/ps01.htm>

If you have thoughts or questions you would like to see addressed email them to randy@straighttalkministries.com