

# HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

*Libraries of Hope Newsletter*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

--A new podcast has been posted: [WEMH #197 Angels Among Us](#)

There are angels among us -- you just may not be recognizing them as ‘angels.’

My daughter asked me, “Mom, where do you come up with these obscure books you find?” I have no idea. They somehow seem to find me. The book I share in today’s podcast was filled with things that got me thinking, but more importantly, filled me with hope. I hope it can do the same for you.



“...JUST BE NICE.  
AND DON'T STOP  
LEARNING!!!”

--The new Month 3 books are in the [store!](#)

Imaginative Tales are from England and Ireland. I drew heavily from Joseph Jacobs’ retellings, if you are familiar with him.

(Announcements cont.) Epic and Legendary Tales brings a couple of versions of King Arthur tales plus an introductory level story of Beowulf.

Great Lives is loaded with stories from the original Great Lives series, only sorted by rotation.

And My World Story Book brings you more of Arthur Mee's inspirational historical figures. It was really really hard to narrow down the choices! Arthur Mee was British so offered tons of stories to choose from. You'll see familiar names plus meet people you have probably never heard of before. But they all have something worthwhile to teach us about living life.



### Tales from the British Isles

IMAGINATIVE SERIES

SELECTED AUTHORS



### Heroes of Great Britain

EPIC & LEGENDARY HEROES SERIES

SELECTED AUTHORS



### MY WORLD STORY BOOK

BOOK THREE: THE BRITISH ISLES

Compiled by Marlene Peterson



### Great Lives from the British Isles

MONTH THREE

SELECTED AUTHORS

## WEH IN ACTION

--**Last week we learned about space.** We read books, made moon sand, read poems about the moon, made planetary pizzas while listening the Holst's Planets, and watched some fun educational YouTube clips. The kids favorite was toilet paper rockets. They loved the phases on the Moon oreo activity, K found the perfect book to go along with it ([Faces of the Moon](#), with a little poem about each phase). They took them on our walks and played with them at the park.

--**Thought I'd share the fun** we had today. We learned about pirates and did a few activities. I used some wrapping paper (Thank you D.I. for wrapping breakables so well. The paper is so useful.) to make treasure maps. I also got an amazing deal on modeling clay from FB marketplace and had to try it out to make some pirate treasure. My oldest thought the pirate name generator was hilarious. We didn't get much else done today but my girls enjoyed an afternoon of activities.

--**I wanted to share a fun way** we do our My America Story Books. I grew up in a scrapbooking family and have always loved creating. I know my kids love working with paper, stickers, paper cutters, mommy's tape, etc. so weekly I pull out the pictures Marlene sends and our cardstock and stickers and play several of the podcasts. My children love to listen (seriously I can't believe how quietly they will sit and listen) and keep their hands busy cutting out and creating themed scrapbook pages. Sometimes they don't want to participate - they may decide to color pictures or play with blocks while listening, but 9 times out of 10, they end up on the floor with me cutting and pasting. I've loved this time together and the increase in my own understanding of History. So we call them our My America Scrapbooks.

--Here is a sneak peak of my freshly six-year-old's Exploration and Discovery notebook. These topics often spark side activities that he comes up with or asks me to find as well. We've read stories and poems, listened to music, watched movies, created plays, cooked and eaten food they would have, played games and everything else you can think of randomly in between on the topic! This is what homeschooling is all about. Follow your child. Not once have I asked him to sit down and do school. Educate their heart and they will find their love of learning.

“All children need a laptop.  
Not a computer, but a  
human laptop. Moms, Dads,  
Grannies and Grandpas,  
Aunts, Uncles -- someone  
to hold them, read to them,  
teach them. Loved ones  
who will embrace them  
and pass on the experience,  
rituals and knowledge  
of a hundred previous  
generations. Loved ones  
who will pass to the next  
generation their  
expectations of them, their  
hopes, and their dreams.”

--Colin Powell

Art credit: The Favorite by Georgios Iakovidis



## WEB GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

--**Something I really enjoyed** doing with my kids last week is nature journaling. We've recently started learning more about nature journaling from John Muir Laws. We've been watching his weekly episodes on his website. <https://johnmuirlaws.com/the-nature-journal-connection/>. I have kids from ages 15 down to 7 months old and they all love it! Of course my baby just likes the company. Nature journaling is becoming one of my favorite things to do with my kids, it's so peaceful and so fun at the same time. It's training us to be observant, have a curious mind and make connections, which helps in all other areas of learning as well.

--**I am fairly new to all this.** I just wanted to share that I just finished watching the [Gordon Neufeld talk](#) in Catch the Vision part 1, and WOW!!! It is mind-blowing!!! So full of insights into the minds and plights of children and youth these days, and explains issues of society better than anything I heard during my psychology degree!

I've been homeschooling essentially since my oldest was born almost 14 years ago. Between that experience and my religious beliefs, I thought I 'got' the importance of a strong home and family influence. But wow, so much food for thought... so many insights to implement as a parent and as a homeschool and gospel teacher!

I whole-heartedly recommend this to anyone that is still lurking and hasn't gotten that far in the Catch the Vision series, or who may have skipped over it because of its length. It may be something I re-watch every year or so! I wish all of society could watch this and change the system accordingly. Seriously, SO GOOD!!!

--**The Deep Sea** (Website: [https://neal.fun/deep-sea/?fbclid=IwAR2\\_PB91sdh2FhdtUyCaYBJcxaLW8JJg9DYIEzxZZiScBSqFelnpvw\\_1KT8](https://neal.fun/deep-sea/?fbclid=IwAR2_PB91sdh2FhdtUyCaYBJcxaLW8JJg9DYIEzxZZiScBSqFelnpvw_1KT8))

(WEH Group Recommendations cont.) --Colonial America Spotify playlist: [https://open.spotify.com/album/2IUPy7vf0mJvBM1bBzaqMJ?si=tYBTht4dSr67SgbTINr-hw&dl\\_branch=1&fbclid=IwAR1AI77xO25i5\\_bDr\\_A8vr-mu9NYK2uEiBbWgyEHpQdvj3C3rtO52PjpAhv4&nd=1](https://open.spotify.com/album/2IUPy7vf0mJvBM1bBzaqMJ?si=tYBTht4dSr67SgbTINr-hw&dl_branch=1&fbclid=IwAR1AI77xO25i5_bDr_A8vr-mu9NYK2uEiBbWgyEHpQdvj3C3rtO52PjpAhv4&nd=1)

--Dutch Wooden Shoes Being Made (YouTube: <https://youtu.be/pjK71oZAxgk>)

## MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--DISCLAIMER: This post is not aimed at a specific individual in this group nor a specific post. It is a recurring thing, not only in discussions within this group but also out there in the world at large. We keep adding new members so I thought it would be helpful to share my point of view as moderator of this group. For those of you who have been hanging out for awhile, it's nothing new.

The same topic of discussion happens every year when we visit the story of Christopher Columbus and now it is expanding to the Pilgrims--and actually every other topic we cover--the Founding Fathers, slavery, etc.

So for the record (as I put on the cap of a scolding mother):

1. Yes--there are many, many sides to every story. This group is well aware of the danger of the single story, whether that story be favorable or unfavorable of the subject at hand. But there is a time and way to unfold it to children. Starting out with the warts to a child and making him hate everyone is not a good strategy.

2. Judgment calls on character and motives require maturity. It requires someone who has read widely and thought deeply. That is not exactly how children are taught today. And above all, they actually need a moral imagination--the kind of imagination that forms in a mind fed with fairy tales and epic heroes and stories of all kinds of people and literature. Exactly the fare many of you are not willing to feed your children. You want to give them the facts, just the facts. And then some of you carefully sift through and deliver your version of the 'facts' as the one and only true narrative.

3. There is something far greater than 'true' and that is 'truth'--and that is a much bigger topic than I can put in a FB text. But it is at the heart of what this group is about. And if you have not taken the time to listen and learn from the Catch the Vision course or the podcasts, what I try to say here likely wouldn't make much sense anyway.

4. I see a lot of assumptions about the books and stories I share. If you actually read them, you'll see they are very balanced and not sugar coated. And I deliver them according to what a developing child can take in. I am trusting you to build that moral imagination so that they can put the flaws in their proper place and see the broader picture.

*(continued on next page)*



“THANK GOD FOR HIS  
FREE AND SIMPLE  
GIFTS... THESE ARE  
LIFE'S REAL TREASURES;  
IN THEM ANY MAN,  
HOWEVER POOR, IS RICH.”

--Arthur Hopkins

Art credit: Spring by Heinrich Vogeler

(Marlene's Musing cont.) 5. For those of you who are excited because you are 'woke' to the facts, consider what that narrative is doing. You can see it right here in this group! It stirs contention. It divides us. It makes people hate our heritage. If you read history, these are exactly the tactics that have been and continue to be used to overthrow a free people and put in its place, tyranny and oppression. And if you can't see that 'fact,' I'm sorry for you.

Most of the people I have spoken to who are so quick to condemn Columbus and the Pilgrims and the Founders have never actually read much about them at all. And for those of you who have studied it deeply--yes!! you will discover the facts of the warts and the flaws and the messiness of it all. Now be wise in how you distribute that and make sure you balance it out and discover the 'truth' of the benefits that have come to US because of those flaws.

Differences of opinion, many points of view are welcome in this group. But mean-ness is not tolerated. Narrow minded can go both ways. I try to foster a safe place for open-mindedness and discussion.

(Removes scolding cap)

Now just be nice.

And DON'T STOP LEARNING!!!

--A couple of days ago, a member in our group posted a concern that a story in My Book of Delights was not factually correct. It raised a concern that perhaps there were other things in my books that weren't accurate. There was quite a bit of discussion that followed, and far down the thread, there was an interchange that was not heading in a good direction--meaning per-

sonal attacks. I was heading out the door for the afternoon to help a daughter get ready to move into a new house and so I asked Krystal to shut down comments because I have seen from previous threads how quickly things can turn really nasty and I wasn't going to be able to keep an eye on it. I try really hard to keep this group a safe place.

Unfortunately, some interpreted that action as being aimed at the original mom who posted with questions. And it gave the impression that I won't allow anyone to question me or my resources.

Please question me!! Please share your concerns!! That's how we learn.

When I first started this work, I got called out from fact checkers quite frequently. And I went kinda crazy trying to make sure everything was factually correct.

But I have learned that conflicts and contradictions are what help us learn I bump into conflicting things all the time as I read and it sends me down a rabbit hole to find out what the truth is. Often it is somewhere in the middle.

So I quit worrying about fact checking everything I give to you.

The solution is to keep reading. Some facts will fade away as really unimportant and irrelevant to anything that really matters. Others you will be able to correct to your own personal satisfaction as you search out the answers for yourself and you will then know why you believe what you believe.

The Four Gospels are full of conflicting facts. Some people throw away their Bibles because of that, saying it must not be true. But by doing so, they miss out on the Spirit

of the message that is filled with Truth and has brought more comfort and hope to more people than just about any other book on the planet.

The books and stories I offer you may have wrong 'facts'. But there isn't a single story I share with you that doesn't have a hidden gem of Truth that will make your life happier.

--I keep talking about how good things rise out of messiness.

Even the Bible came from 'messy' beginnings. I just read this in a Preface to a book containing the lost books of the New Testament:

"The compilation of the Bible was not an act of any definite occurrence. It was a matter complicated and abstruse. It was an evolution at the hands of Churchmen of various beliefs and purposes. In the formulation of early church doctrines, there was dissension, personal jealousy, intolerance, persecution, bigotry. That out of this welter should have arisen the Bible, with its fine inspiration, would seem to present a plausible basis for belief in its Divine origin...

"Good men were engaged on both sides of the ecclesiastical controversies."

--Do yourself a favor. If you haven't started going through CTV, start. Do it at your pace. And if you have already been through it, start again.

The first time through, it is human nature to only latch on to the familiar things and ignore the rest. The second time through, you are likely to start to see things you missed.

Start with the [videos](#) on the homepage and then enter to [CTV](#).

## MOI MINUTE

I have been loving my study of the beginning pages of the Catch the Vision Challenge. I have read and listened to so much of the content before but every time I revisit it I am filled and inspired in new ways. I was reading in Marlene's introduction about the remnant and have been pondering on the gathering of the remnant for the past few weeks. The mothers around the world are the remnant. We are the remnant right here in this group. I happened upon this analogy about chess and the queen and thought it fit so beautifully with my ponderings on the remnant (and loved it because I love playing chess with my children).

“Chess has three parts: opening, middle game, and endgame. The opening is the development of the pieces—you're setting up your strategy. The middle game is the implementation of your strategy. The endgame is hopefully where you're seeing the fruition of your strategy—you're closing the trap.

“The queen is the most powerful piece on the board, and it is conventional chess wisdom that you postpone playing your queen for as long as you can. The longer you can delay playing your queen, the more likely you will have your most powerful piece for the endgame. The Lord is the Master Strategist and knows exactly how to win....” (Danette Peterson)



Art credit: Young Mother with Child by Francois Alfred Delobbe



“A MOTHER'S ARMS  
ARE MADE OF  
TENDERNESS AND  
CHILDREN SLEEP  
SOUNDLY IN THEM...”

--Victor Hugo

Art credit: Maternal Admiration by Bouguereau