

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Announcements.....	1
WEH in Action.....	3
Marlene's Musings.....	6
WEH Group Recommendations.....	9
MOI Minute.....	9

**"NO ONE HAS
EVER BECOME POOR
BY GIVING"**

--ANNE FRANK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--We're halfway through another rotation. This month, after a long labor, a new nation has been born. It is time to celebrate freedom and to learn more about our Government and the Constitution. Andrew Jackson declared that the Bible is the rock of our Republic—he wasn't the only one, by the way—so it is our connecting link back to the people of the Bible where we learn of another free people, under God. And to understand some of their challenges, we need to visit her neighbors in the ancient lands of Babylon, Assyria, and Persia. Today, we know these lands as Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Kuwait and Syria. The problems of the Middle East have been going on for thousands of years. We cannot begin to understand the conflict of today without knowing its history.

In Nature, we continue our story of the Creation by studying the tiniest little creatures—the creepy crawly things of the earth and little winged creatures. They provide some of the most amazing stories of all.

And for our Mother's University topic, we now turn to Storytelling—I think my favorite topic. It was my study of the Storytellers of the turn of last century that introduced me to the whole philosophy of the Well-Educated Heart. They have so much to teach us!



Art credit: Woman Pouring a Drink by Julien Dupre

(Announcements cont.) --NEW PODCASTS:

#199: [Women of the American Revolution](#)

While we spend a lot of time studying the men of the Revolution, what about the women? To understand their influence is to understand the influence you can have in our world today. Your name may not make the history books of tomorrow, but the effects of what you did will last forever.

I have heard it said that men are the head, but women are the neck that turns the head. History seems to bear that out.

#200: [The Way Through the Days Ahead](#)

This is probably the hardest podcast I have ever done...but also maybe one of the most important.

--NEW BOOKS:

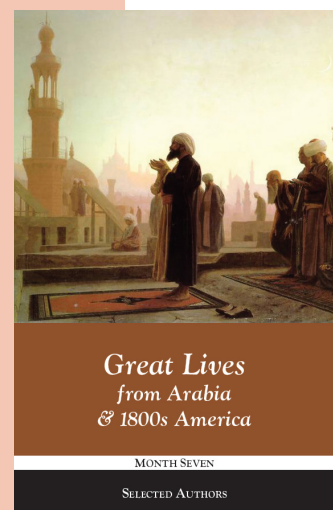
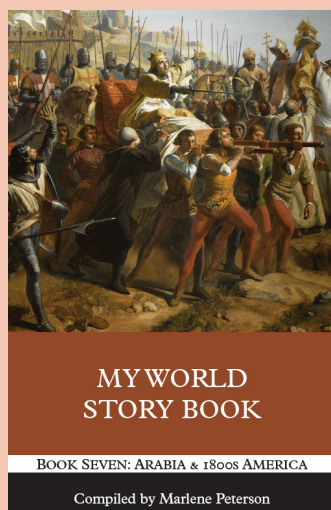
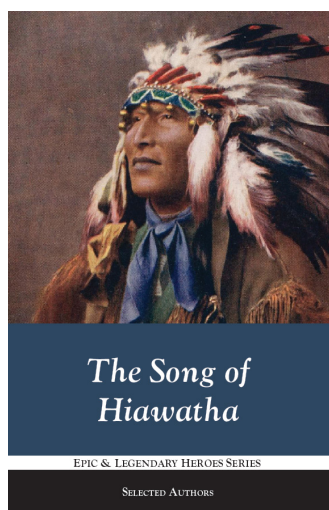
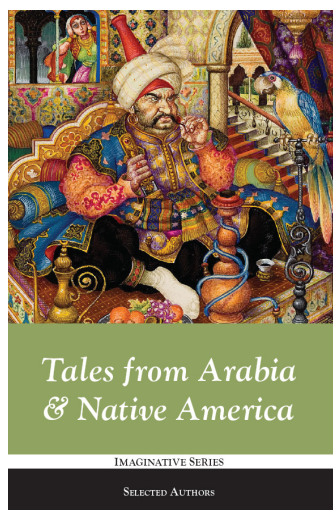
Month 7 books will be available in our [store](#) soon:

Imaginative Series: Tales from Arabia & Native America

Epic and Legendary Heroes: The Song of Hiawatha

My World Story Book: Month 7: Stories of Arabia & 1800s America

Great Lives: Stories from Arabia & 1800s Americans

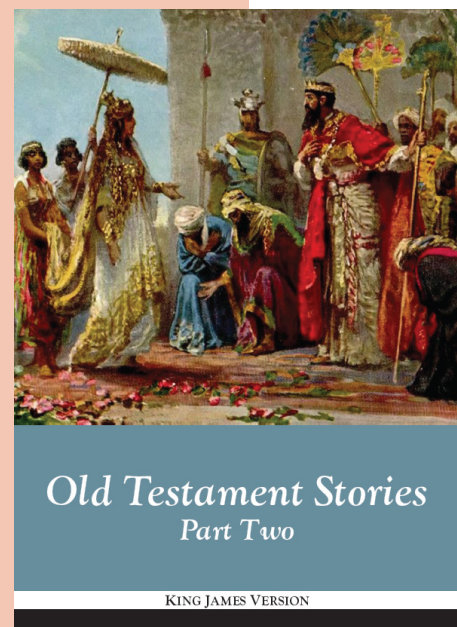
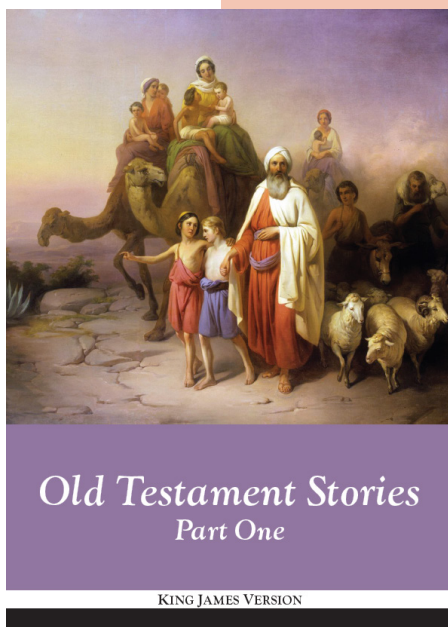


One of our first projects was the Story Bible, where we preserved the language of the King James Version, but created a very readable copy with a large font and small bite-sized stories to engage young—and old!—readers.

A couple of years ago we took the text of just the New Testament stories and added spaces to glue fine art images we provided into the book for the Stories of Jesus.

I am happy to announce the Old Testament is now available with fine art images. We divided it into 2 books so that it isn't so big for little hands to hold. Not every story has an art image, but you hopefully will find enough to keep interest alive.

It is now available in our [store](#). We hope it will aid in your study of the Old Testament!



(Announcements cont.) --**You will notice a change** in the library on our website. I previously had books organized by Elementary, Middle and High School. It never felt right, but I wasn't sure how to sort them.

I never did it by reading level. There are many books in the Elementary section that are above the reading level of many Elementary students.

Plus I think everyone should start with the Elementary books--even High Schoolers.

So we have re-named the groups--you will now find they are Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced. What that means is that the ideas are simpler in the earlier books and move through to more complex and advanced thoughts. The introductory books are a great place to begin to learn and then you can layer deep from there.

Categorizing the books is not a science at all. I had to go by gut feeling. The best test of any book is for you to open it and read a few paragraphs and see if it is at the right place for YOUR child. Or, if your child is an independent reader, he or she will go through the same process.

--**Of all the things I do** for WEH, my favorite is probably finding art for the Simple Joy art website. It's so enjoyable to just go through all the paintings and see what's out there...there's so much!! I find it very relaxing and uplifting. Unfortunately, it's a task that usually gets relegated to the backburner as it's a project that's going to take me forever and other more pressing things are always coming up. So I'd like to again invite anyone who can and would like to, to help me out. This is a [link](#) to a Google Sheet where I'm collecting links to the art that I find. Just grab an artist (or add one of your own), find applicable art in Wikimedia Commons, and add the necessary information in the spreadsheet. I'll periodically go through and add them to the website as I'm able. The Google Sheet is pinned in the announcements as well, so you can come back to it any time you'd like. Search and hopefully enjoy!



**“THAT WE MAY LEARN THAT
WHILE ‘IT IS THE GLORY OF GOD
TO CONCEAL A THING,’ HE IS
NOT ONLY WILLING WE SHOULD
SEARCH OUT THESE HIDDEN
WONDERS, BUT WILL HIMSELF
BE GLAD IN OUR NEW-FOUND
DELIGHT IN THEM.”**

--Julia Bullard

Art credit: Girls Picking Anemones by Brendekilde

WEH IN ACTION

--**Tonight when I was rocking** my baby to sleep, I detoured from my usual repertoire of lullabies because I remembered a hymn that was so meaningful to me many years ago that I had forgotten about. I felt such a strong impression from the Lord to sing this particular song right away. As I reached the third verse, my 4-year-old (who had a very hard and stressful day) slowly came into the room and sat at my feet and listened. When I finished the hymn she said, “Thank you for singing beautiful songs, mama. It makes me feel calm and happy.” She helped me wrap my baby in her blanket and lay her down, and when we left the room, there was a noticeable change in my daughter and such a strong peace in our home. I am so grateful for music, especially hymns, that can help us to connect to each other and to God. And I am even more grateful for WEH and the impact it has had on my family as I have slowly implemented more heart education into mine and my daughters lives.



Art credit: Singing to the Reverend by Edmund Blair Leighton

(WEH in Action cont.) --**Hope** this is encouraging to others who may struggle with NOT teaching history chronologically. Today we started reading a book on British history. We were reading an overview of British history from Julius Ceasar to the Norman Conquest. All of a sudden we get to a part "...some children on the beach saw a ship approaching. Its prow was shaped like a dragon's head, and its sides were hung with shields." My girls' minds were literally blown, they were almost shouting—it's the Vikings! My oldest was excited to see two history topics begin to overlap that she learned about separately. I was amazed because they started reaching far back to our first study of the Vikings two years ago and sharing information they learned. All this to say that all this layering works! When their minds are ready, they begin to get it all organized and it's even cooler when they start to see history figures they've met before showing up in another place. My daughter said, "Hey Vikings, what are you gonna do in Britain?!" Keep on going on with this moms!

--**I've been meaning** to post about this for a while but life has been crazy and I hope you can forgive my ramblings here, especially if they don't

make much sense. So, the last year of our family life has been super chaotic and there have been days when just getting through the day and making sure everybody was loved and fed was all I could do and learning at home has been a super struggle. I have 3 kiddos ages 18, 16 and 8 and we do homeschool and this year we have been trying to do homeschool with an almost exclusively WEH approach. I have been so worried with life being so chaotic this year that my 8-year-old's learning was being especially neglected. My older two can read books and listen to things on their own but I have worried that I wasn't doing enough for my 8-year-old especially when she gets scrutinizing questions from neighbors or family about what she 'knows.' There have been so many days and months that all I have been able to do is read her a bedtime story and sing her a song.

On better days we maybe read something out of My Book of Delights or read a poem together or listened to a classical music song. But despite all of what I felt I was failing to teach her, she is learning to read, to write and do basic math (the last one mostly from playing board games and cooking with me). My

hubby is deaf so we do watch a lot of things with captions on and I do think that has helped her with learning to read and word recognition etc. But honestly there has been SOOOOOO much that I wanted to do with her education that I just have not been able to do the last while and it has been so hard not to beat myself up about it but the other day she ran up to me to show me something she was writing and it had punctuation, and in the right places (we had not talked about that really much at all and I have done zero formal LA lessons or workbooks with her). I asked her how she knew where to put the periods for the sentences and she said that a long time ago I was talking to her older siblings about how to tell different accents apart and how the Scottish tend to go up at the ends of their phrases and so she said that she said the sentences she was writing out loud to hear when a Scottish person would go at the end of the phrase and that's where she put a period. I didn't know what to say to that. She remembered that somehow, a comment I made purely in passing and then she made a connection with it to figure out how to punctuate something totally on her own! I am writing this post in hopes that all of the moms who feel they

(WEH in Action cont.) aren't doing enough or feel like they are failing or wonder if a few stories or songs or poems or playing outside is really going to be enough can have faith that it really just might be more than enough! I am not in any way trying to make any one feel bad if their child maybe needs a little bit more formality or guidance etc. If that's what your child needs then that's just fine. I just was hoping it might give some hope to a mom who is struggling with just day-to-day life and wondering how much their child is really learning. From my experience I have learned that kiddos can absorb and make connections far more readily and independently than we give them credit for so for that mom who is doubting herself and this WEH approach, have faith! Learning is happening even if it's not visible at the moment!

--**I had a beautiful WEH** moment last night with my children. I was putting my littlest three kids (7, 5, 2) to bed and was going to read them a story, but I was too lazy to go get a book and my phone was dead. Then the thought came into my mind to tell them a story from the Old Testament, which we are studying this year. So I thought, I know some stories well enough to tell them, so I told them about Daniel and the lions den and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego being saved from the fire.

They loved it! I didn't get the stories perfect, but most of the details. Then I asked if they wanted to hear about Moses. They weren't sure about who Daniel and the others were, but they knew about Moses and told me about him going up into the mountain and talking to God and Satan trying to come and tempt him afterward. I was so thrilled they knew about that story of Moses because we had been discussing it with all the children at church, but usually it seems they aren't listening very well.

A couple things I learned from this experience. First, if you can tell a story, then it is really in your heart and so much more powerful of a tool to help you and others. I realized I know the general stories, but I was unsure about many details that would add depth and understanding, even though I have read and heard these stories all my life. I don't think I would even realize that I was missing some details except that I put myself on the spot to tell the story. It is kind of like giving yourself a test. I realized it was a great experience for me to recognize something I can do to help me really get the stories in my heart a little deeper.

I realized how wonderful it was to tell a story in my own words and from my heart, seeing how much my kids were captivated by it and really got into the story. I feel like it connected with their hearts even more than if I just read it. Also it was bedtime and it was dark in their room and it was the perfect setting for them to really be listening. I loved leaving them with a beautiful story to ponder right before bed.

Also you never know what your children are soaking up when it seems they aren't listening and maybe the magic of a bedtime story.

--**Today was our first day** of applying the WEH. We started by coziness on the couch with the laptop so he can pick a piece of art to print from the Joy of Art section on the WEH website. We framed it and put it up on his bedroom wall. He was thrilled about this.

We read our character card. Listened to beautiful music and talked a bit about it.

Next, we read poetry. I read our current read aloud, "Rabbit Hill" while he played his marble run. He read to me.

When I pulled out our devotional, that only takes 5 minutes, he cringed like he always does (this is a boy who loves to be read to). I just have always thought he didn't like it because it was boring or something along those lines. But, trying to be in tune with his heart, I asked him why he doesn't like our devotional. He simply stated it's because it has black and white pictures and he likes colored pictures better.

I model journaling by copying from my Catch the Vision book in my journal. We started one for him as well.

I've cut down our math, LA and history to 20 minutes each a day. We were doing 30 to 45 minutes a day before.

We also went for a walk in the dark!

MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--If you would like to add a little Swiss history into your study this month, I just recorded and posted a book about *William Tell and his Friends Told to the Children*, written by Henrietta Marshall, (who I hope is a name you are starting to recognize) in [BelMonde](#). Or if you want to read it yourself, just click on the title and it will take you to the book itself.

It's an exciting tale of freedom and how faith can help a 'David' face and overcome a 'Goliath.' Believe me—there are applications to our world today.

--I am continuing to record one chapter a week from Frederic Farrar's *A Beautiful Life—The Life of Christ* and posting it in [BelMonde](#).

I wanted to call attention to the growing fine art gallery that goes along with it. You will find a link to it at the top of the section with the stories. The pictures don't link, but a pop up should show you the name of the painting and the artist if you want to search it out. I add 6 fine art images each week to go along with the story. (oops--I just noticed I missed a few. I'll have to fix that.)



Art credit: A Summer Day by Charle Baugniet

This is a project I am doing as much for me as to share with you...but if you can benefit from it, then that makes me happy, too. Here's a [link](#) to the gallery.

--I hope I haven't given the mistaken idea that your entire day needs to revolve around the Rotation schedule! Picture it as a subtle rhythm that brings just enough order to your learning to sustain it. If you even spent 1 hour or 2 hours a day gleaning from the stories in the Forgotten Classics, you are storing up the 'golden wealth' of the ages from all the nations of the world and all of nature. But it is leaving you many hours in the day to pursue personal interests and hobbies and ideas and other books you want to read.

In other words, it leaves lots of room for life. Learning that is not applied in some way is really quite dead. Like stagnant waters. There needs to be time to live life and apply life lessons to it. Hours of book learning or academic exercises with no life is not what we are after.

--Because I talk a lot about freedom in learning and not using compulsory means, it sometimes is misinterpreted to mean that I am suggesting you stand back and just let things happen.

A garden without cultivation and tending is called a patch of weeds.

We're not growing weeds here. I promise. There is a lot of cultivation and tending happening. But to anyone who has planted a seed in some dirt, how much can you force it to grow? All you can do is nourish and water it and give it lots of sunshine. Then let nature take its course.



Art credit: Rhubarb by Nikolai Astrup

(Marlene's Musings cont.) And even then, you can't expect a daisy seed to grow to be a rose.

--It has been fun to gather fairy and folk tales from around the world to go with the rotation topics in the Imaginative Series.

But I think they're there more than just for fun. I copied this from Joseph Jacob from the intro to his Celtic tales:

"A common fund of imaginative wealth" could do more for a "true union of hearts than all your politics."

The more I dig, the more I find that to be true. The outer wrappings may be different among the nations, but the core truths are the same. And they usually have to do with happiness. Especially living happily ever after.

When we focus more on our commonalities rather than our differences, maybe we will get closer to a world without war.

Fairy tales are an essential nutrient for Well-Educated Hearts.



Art credit: Hans Christian Andersen Reads the Story of "The Angel" by Elizabeth Jerichau-Baumann

--In re-reading the Creation story in Genesis this week, I noticed that everything God created, He pronounced as good. The first thing that He said was not good was that man was alone.

That reminded me of the Harvard study—one of the longest ever conducted—that was looking at the secret of happiness. It wasn't your position in life, how much you weighed, how educated you were, how much money you made, how 'successful' you were. It boiled down to one common factor—the happiest people have relationships with other people. Or at least one other person.

Being alone is not good.

It would seem our society, as we become more virtual, is becoming less connected. And we are becoming more depressed.

So next time your house is a mess and your lesson 'plans' fly out the window and your kids aren't interested in anything you are trying to teach them, pause, take a breath and ask yourself—what is my relationship with my child?

(*Marlene's Musings cont.*) Does he feel connected to me? Do I take time to look deeply into his eyes so that he knows I am seeing him?

Dr. Neufeld would say attaching your child's heart to yours is THE most important thing you can do in childhood. I think there is a word for that connection: Love.

Love is the foundation of everything we do here.

--Why stories matter.

When one of my daughters got married, her in-laws gifted this little sculpture to the newlyweds. They named him Rameses and he has been sitting in their living room. I thought it was an odd little piece and certainly not something my daughter would have picked out for herself.

When she and her husband recently moved to a new house, Rameses was used as a door stop while we were moving boxes in and out until he was moved to his new home on the hearth of their fireplace.

We had a little break in the move and my daughter asked me if she had ever told me the story behind him. She hadn't. So she told me.

When her husband's grandmother was a young mother, she often walked by the window of the local Sears and this little ram sculpture was there. Something drew her to it—she loved it so much. But money was tight and she knew there was no way in the world she could ever own it. So day after day she admired it in the window, until one day it was gone and she was so, so sad.

Unknown to her, her daughter—my daughter's mother-in-law—knew how much her mother loved that little guy. So she took on a part time job after school and started saving up money to buy it for her. When the mother came home, so sad that the little ram was gone, her daughter presented it as a gift—a true gift of love.

Suddenly that little ram has become very meaningful to me when I look at it. With the story, I would say it has become a priceless addition to my daughter's decor.

There are so many dates and names and facts of history that have no meaning at all until you add the story behind them. Stories give life and meaning to everything.

And that is why I try and drown you in stories.



WEH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

--[*There's No Such Thing as Bad Weather*](#) by Linda Akeson McGurk. Just finished reading this and highly recommend it. It's funny because I feel I spent more time outdoors in Alaska (similar to the Swedish climate described in the book) than I do in New York (always waiting for a nice day). Thankfully, my kids love outside no matter the weather. But this book has convinced me to change...after this snowstorm goes away... ;)

--3 hours of beautiful classical music and fine art ([YouTube](#)) https://youtu.be/8XdHP_fQoB0

--[*The Right Brain Develops First: Why Play is the Foundation for Academic Learning*](#)



“BOOKS POSSESS AN ESSENCE OF IMMORTALITY. THEY ARE BY FAR THE MOST LASTING PRODUCTS OF HUMAN EFFORT. TEMPLES CRUMBLE INTO RUIN, PICTURES AND STATUES DECAY, BUT BOOKS SURVIVE. TIME IS OF NO ACCOUNT WITH GREAT THOUGHTS, WHICH ARE AS FRESH TODAY, AS WHEN THEY PASSED THROUGH THEIR AUTHOR’S MINDS, AGES AGO.”

--Samuel Smiles

Art credit: A Young Girl Reading by Jean Honore Fragonard

MOI MINUTE

I know lots of people are wanting to start Mothers of Influence groups and WEH based co-ops and I just wanted to share my experience to give you encouragement in venturing out and making your dream happen.

I moved in the summer of 2020, leaving behind an amazing MOI group, to an area that Well-Educated Heart wasn't known. I went to homeschool activities to meet others and a couple months later invited a handful of those moms to join this group called Mothers of Influence. I was a little nervous that first night that no one would show, but they came! I invited them to go through the Catch the Vision course and then we did Mother's University.

We live in a military town so it sometimes feels like we have a lot of turnover, but six months into it we were still growing our group and decided to start a homeschool group based on Well-Educated Heart.

A year after starting the MOI group we had our first day of our commonwealth school that uses Well-Educated Heart and Leadership Education as its core philosophies and last week we started our second semester.

Through MOI we've started building a beautiful community of families who are beginning to understand and apply principles of WEH which strengthens hearts and families and in turn will strengthen the larger community.

MOI has a ripple effect. It starts small, but expands to encircle more, extending its influence beyond just you and your family. It has been inspiring to see the effect that it has had not only on my family but in those in our community.

Please visit our newly updated Mothers of Influence website at mothersofinfluence.org