

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

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“THE WHOLE WORLD IS FULL OF UNWORKED JOY MINES.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--**The Mother’s University** topic for August is JOY!! This is what our ultimate objective is. If you haven’t yet started making your way through the Mother’s Learning Library book of Joy, I hope you’ll take the opportunity. It’s a book to savor and think about--a culmination of all we have been learning throughout the year of the power of Music, Art, Poetry, Story, and Nature to bring joy into our lives.

“The whole world is full of unworked joy mines. Everywhere we go we find all sorts of happiness-producing material, if we only know how to extract it.”

--Orison Swett Marden

--**I added some new videos** to the home page at welleducatedheart.com. There is a new Orientation video on the home page as well as a new very abbreviated and to-the-point LOH tour. Also, check out the new Forgotten Classics Family Library video that explains the ‘why’ behind the library and walks you through all the series that are available to you. You will find that video on the Forgotten Classics Family Library page or in Section 5 of Catch the Vision. I hope this will help those of you trying to make sense of all the pieces.

Also, note the link to the transcriptions just below the videos if you prefer to read.

--**We’ve recently been** informed that our store website builder has added a feature where you can check the status of your order by clicking the “View Order Details” button in your order confirmation email. Just a head’s up that that information will not be accurate. Our orders get marked as “shipped” when our printer has received the order, but he still has to print the books and ship them out. Your actual shipping confirmation will come from Stamps.com with the subject line “Libraries of Hope has sent you a

(Announcements cont.) package.” We apologize for any confusion!

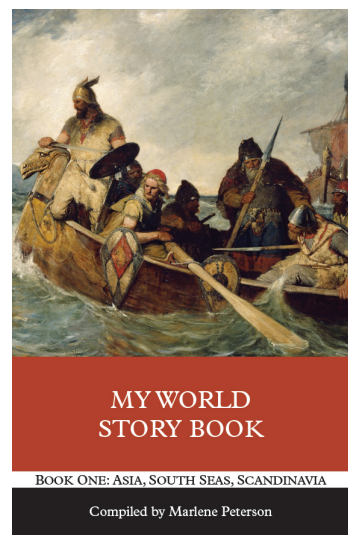
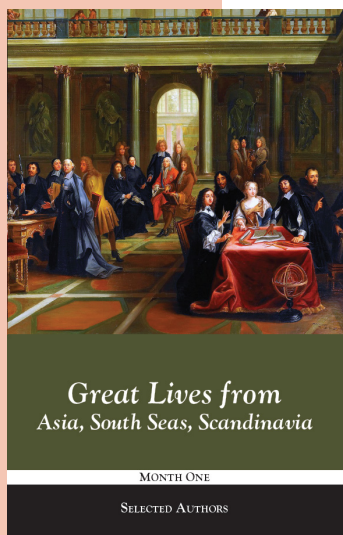
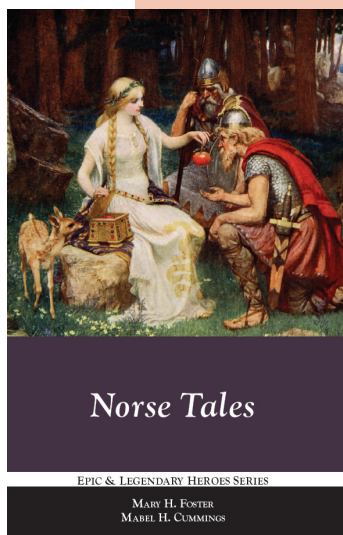
--We are introducing four new series that will be in our store hopefully some time between August 10-15.

Imaginative Series, filled with wonder tales from all around the world, organized around the rotation schedule.

Epic and Legendary Heroes Series, organized by rotation, starting with heroes of Scandinavia.

Revised Great Lives Series, includes all the stories of the original series sorted by rotation rather than subject. There are additional stories included in some of the months. If you already own the other series, we will be making a supplement available to you, if you would like. In the meantime, of course, they are also available in the free digital books. (Note: If you are currently subscribed to the Great Lives series, you will finish out with that version so you have a complete matching set.)

My World Story Book Series, designed just like My America Story Book only with lives from men and women from around the world. The stories are taken from Arthur Mee’s 1000 Heroes, which I will tell you about in a bit. They are stories written to inspire hearts. Images for notebooking will be available, just like MASB. Access everything at myworldstorybook.com.



Additionally, we are revamping the Nature/Art/Music series. The first 8 books (the nature topics) will remain the same. The last 4 books will be replaced with what is currently the Nature Bundle. The new series will just be called the Nature Series. Those 4 art/music books will be implemented in the Appreciation series that will be announced Fall 2022, but in the meantime will be available for individual purchase for those who want them. (Note: If you are currently subscribed to the Nature/Art/Music series, you will finish out the series as it currently stands so that you have a complete matching set.)

I am not ready to introduce the Appreciation Series, but there is one book that will be available for purchase along with the new series: **Symphony Stories**. On the Enrichment pages, I included musical selections with a link to stories for a simple music appreciation session. These stories came from the North Carolina Youth Concert series notes. For your convenience, we have now compiled them into one reference book for you, sorted by rotation. You will also find a corresponding music list in Spotify. Search for “[Symphony Stories for WEH.](#)”

--Just one final note for those who ordered books this past month: please be patient with us! We had a huge influx of orders due to the price increase, but I’m the only one handling orders, and our printer has never filled this many orders, so if we messed something up or it takes longer than expected, please be patient with us. I will fix what I can! -Krystal



“I VALUE THIS DELICIOUS HOME FEELING AS ONE OF THE CHOICEST GIFTS A PARENT CAN BESTOW.”

--Washington Irving

Art credit: A Family in a Drawing Room,
Artist Unknown



MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--I've had a phrase running through my mind the last few days from a story Zig Ziglar used to tell. He said his grandma made the lightest, fluffiest biscuits around. But one day he went and they were flat and hard. He asked what happened. She said she had accidentally left out the baking powder and the biscuits had been 'baked in a squat.'

As I read many of your comments and concerns as you try and implement this philosophy in your home, I sense that you are 'careful and troubled about many things.' I caution you to not let yourself get 'baked in a squat.' How would that happen? For one thing, by allowing planning and managing everything to become so tedious that you never actually enjoy the things that are going to make all of this 'rise.' Less planning is going to work in your favor.

For you perfectionists who need to make sure you are doing it just right, I challenge you to make a perfect mistake. Set out to pick the most wrong book or story you can find from the list I've provided. And create the most imperfect notebooking page you possibly can. Try and be perfectly successful in that! You'll soon find there are no mistakes, because you will learn from whatever you do, and that makes for a success.

Remember what our friend Marva Collins taught us: If you can't make a mistake, you can't make anything. Don't allow your fear of doing this wrong make you get 'baked in a squat.'



Art credit: Rückkehr vom Backhaus by Hermann Sonderman

--I know many of you are pulling together curriculum for the coming year. I can't tell you how many times I have been told that I would make it so much easier for you if I would just tell you what to read and do each month--there are too many choices for you. In other words, some of you want a WEH curriculum. And there are moms in this group who are trying to be helpful and do that for you. I appreciate their desire to help.

(cont. on next page)

(*Marlene's Musings cont.*) Pulling together a 'curriculum' would be so simple for me to do. But I will never do it. For many reasons which I talk about elsewhere, the two most important being the need for an environment of freedom and choice and the need to honor individuality. Once you take those two things away, it is no longer heart-based learning, as I define it.

I am also told you are too busy to go through *Catch the Vision*. You just need something simple; something you can just open and go with. You don't want to have to think about it.

But this thought has been lurking in my brain. Can you imagine someone saying, "I want to be a brain surgeon. Just tell me where to cut."



I hope no one comes near me like that! I want someone who understands how my brain works. I want someone with long-practiced skills and understanding. Someone who knows what to do when the unexpected comes along or who can treat the unique problems of my brain.

Well, I look at you as heart surgeons. Part of your work is to preserve already tender and soft hearts. The other part is to open and soften hearts that have hardened and closed. There are a lot of broken hearts out there. That requires

much more than a 'cut here' approach. It will require much more of you.

But at the same time, when you truly understand--when you 'catch the vision'--you will likely find it is much simpler than what you are doing now. Because you will be working in harmony with divine designs instead of pushing against them.

What I offer isn't for everyone. I know that. I was reading a Maria Montessori book last night where it said that people were being taught that fresh air, exercise and wholesome foods would restore their health. But the majority weren't willing to do that. They just wanted a pill.

There are lots of people who will give you 'a pill.' I'm just not one of them.

--**If I could make a wish**, it would be that more of you would get on board with the rotation schedule. I know that's a challenging wish because homeschoolers--which many of you are--are some of the most independent thinkers on the planet. And I don't want to interfere with that! But when I created this group many years ago, I hoped that it would be a place where you could share ideas or thoughts from things you were learning, good books and stories you found, fun activities, resources you tried out that had to do with that month's topics. It happens a little here and there. But not to the degree that I would love to see happen.

I got a little taste with the fun little *Guess Who* game someone posted using pictures of Explorers, a month 1 topic. Someone else posted how much she loved Gladys Aylward and others responded with similar books they recommended. Someone else has a daughter who has created coloring pictures to go with each month. Another mom has created beautiful dividing images for *My America Story Book*.

I think it would be a great support for everyone and make it not quite so scary to some of you. The rotation simply provides a rhythm and a harmony. It brings us together with a common focus each month. I haven't pushed it very much, but maybe I'll encourage it more going forward. ...Maybe sometimes wishes do come true! :)

(Marlene's Musings cont.) --To those of you still trying to wrap your mind around the rotation schedule or think it's random, let me try and lay it out again.

If you truly can understand what this is, it is all inclusive. It simply offers you a framework to build within and a rhythm to your study. There are only two subjects: People and the World we live in. Language Arts are simply a tool to understand these two subjects. So why separate the studies?

Nature Studies/Science: First three months are Physical Science--the inanimate things--Air, Water, Rocks; Light, Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Weather, etc. Next five months are Life Sciences--All living things. Biology and all its sub studies. You could actually push out the study of Physical Sciences to cover the first half of the year and study Life Science the second half. I simply start with the world through the eyes of a child--seeing the stars, the rocks, the bugs, the flowers, the animals. I generally follow the story of the Creation. First lessons are allowing them to fall in love with the world they live in and preserving a sense of wonder and helping them learn from observation--vital for a true study of science. I would focus on Nature studies for your younger children. Which mostly means let them get outside and play as much as possible! And throw in a few stories.

People Studies: The spine is a chronological study of American History. Name another country in the world that is conceived in liberty and whose population is made up of people of all nations, of all cultures, races, faiths, living together as one people. What other study of a nation gives you the actual writings and thoughts of its founders? Whose early history is not found in the hazy world of mythology and legend? America makes a perfect spine to build upon.

For those of you who need chronology, here it is. I simply divided the history into manageable month-sized packages. But if you want to make it simpler, the first five months are exploration and colonization, month six is when we become a nation and the remaining half of the year is the growth. If managing the study in two pieces like that works better for you, then that is just fine. Don't stress about going deep in a month--you have 12 years to cover it! Just start planting seeds of interest.

The month-sized packages now let you start connecting to a study of all the nations of the world. Here's a recap:

Mo. 1 Exploration: Vikings take you to SCANDINAVIA. Columbus and followers were trying to get to CHINA and INDIA--ASIA. On the way, explorers discovered the peoples of the region of the SOUTH SEAS.

Mo. 2 Colonization: Pilgrims first settled in HOLLAND who had just freed themselves from the tyranny of SPAIN.

Mo. 3 Moving Towards Independence: We were freeing ourselves from ENGLAND who also tried to rule IRELAND and SCOTLAND.

Mo. 4 George Washington: It falls in December, so I went light on American history and focused on telling stories of the influence of one man of virtue who was so important in our founding. Washington is a modern-day Cincinnatus which leads us to GREECE which naturally leads to ROME. Some like to switch month 6 Holy Land in this month because of Christmas. That's fine. But I think it is very much in line with the Christmas story to study the Roman world in which Jesus was born and lived. And if you listened to the podcast I posted about Greek mythology, the Greeks actually were leading people to Christ and the Greeks had much to do with the story of early Christianity. It is a huge study, though, in a very busy month so I'd revisit it in the summer open months. Also, the study of Rome leads to ITALY. The great Italian artists painted many religious paintings, which also fits into a Christmas theme. But it, too, is such a big topic, you may carry it into the summer.

Mo. 5 Revolution: I highlight the Frenchman Lafayette which brings us to FRANCE who played a vital role in our freedom story, including their settlement in CANADA. SWITZERLAND, another land with an amazing story of freedom, is tied into the story of France as well.

Mo. 6 A New Nation: Here is a study of our Constitution and Govt tied into a study of the HOLY LAND because our founders acknowledged the Bible was the rock upon which our Republic was founded. To understand the story

(*Marlene's Musings cont.*) of the Bible people requires a study of their MIDDLE EASTERN neighbors--Persia, Babylon, etc. which is modern-day Iran and Iraq.

Mo. 7 Westward Expansion and 1800s: You could actually spread this study out over the next three months because it's so broad--so many interesting people and the NATIVE AMERICANS have much to teach us. These topics are more comprehensible to little ones than the upcoming Slavery and Civil War topics of mo. 8 and 9. Although it's not a direct tie in, the idea of Expansion leads to a study of the ARABIAN countries and the rise of ISLAM. You will have just studied Abraham in the Holy Land--the Arab countries also look to Abraham through his son Ishmael.

Mo. 8 Abraham Lincoln and Slavery: These topics lead us to a study of AFRICA where the slaves were brought from and the study of Africa leads us back to ancient days of EGYPT and Carthage.

Mo. 9 Civil War: This war was headed by two notable generals, Lee and Grant, who both fought in our war with MEXICO, which is our link to our study of our neighbors south of the border. As part of that study, we turn to California, Utah, and Texas which were all originally part of Mexico. And then follow down south to SOUTH AMERICA and their fight for freedom.

Mo. 10 World War I and 1900s: This is a study of modern America and could certainly extend all summer. WWI brings us to a study of GERMANY and RUSSIA, two key players in that war which also leads us to study the countries of EASTERN EUROPE.

Mo. 11 and 12 are open months to study whatever interests you. It can also be a good opportunity to occasionally read a full American sweep book or full World History sweep book to help fit the pieces into place.

The rotation is your servant, not your master. Nature is all inclusive. Enjoy all of it all the time. The rotation just ensures you will cover it all at some point. For instance, you may study trees in month four, but you'll want to watch trees throughout the changing seasons. The study in Month 4 just gives you things to watch for. Same with all the nature topics.

Although it may seem that there isn't time for depth, if you follow this schedule for the 12 years of school, you are allotting 1 full year (12 months) to the study of each country. That is more than any curriculum I have ever seen. And it is unfolding in a developmentally appropriate way for your children. In the early years you are simply sharing stories to awaken interest and to begin to plant seeds and impressions. In later years, your children can read and study on their own and take it to as deep a level as they want. Even at that, they will have only scratched the surface and hopefully will spend a lifetime of learning about the world they live in.

Learning includes history text. But also literature, poetry, art, music, biographies, fairy tales, legends, geography, cultures--each one adds a brush stroke to the canvas.

Teach them the art of notebooking and you will have included lessons on writing and critical thinking. Have conversations about what you are learning about--oral precedes written expression. Notebooking the way I show you by placing the people you study in notebooks chronologically by birth year fits the pieces together and gives that timeline understanding most of you crave and that is important to learn.

The website is organized around the Rotation schedule. The Forgotten Classics Library is organized around it to make it simple for you. This kind of learning doesn't require massive planning. It begs for spontaneity and interest led study. Nor would I spend all day in its study. Let life happen! After all, the purpose of studying any of it is to teach us to live full, abundant, joyful lives.

I've been doing this rotation for over 10 years now. I don't have a lot of time to directly study each month, but I have been amazed at how my understanding of the world has grown exponentially just by adding a little here and a little there. But more importantly, I have endless interests--I am never bored! I love our world. I hope this rotation schedule will bring about the same happy result for you.

Yearly Rotation Plan

Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4
Christopher Columbus Age of Exploration (1500's)	The Pilgrims Settling the Colonies (1600's)	Early American History Moving Toward Independence (1700's)	George Washington One Man of Virtue
India China Japan Polynesia Australia Scandinavia	Holland Belgium Spain The Spanish Main	British Isles England Scotland Ireland Wales	Greece Byzantine Empire Rome Italy
Stars Astronomy Light/Colors Physics Gravity	Oceans Oceanology Marine Biology Weather	Rocks Minerals Geology Chemistry	Plants Botany Biology Genetics
Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8
Lafayette Story of Two Revolutions	A New Government Establishing a New Nation	American Frontier Expansion (1800's)	Abraham Lincoln Slave Issues and Civil/States Rights
France Switzerland Canada	Holy Land Ancient Civilizations Babylon (Iraq) Persia (Iran) Assyria Phoenecia	Arabia Islam The Crusades Turkey Ottoman Empire	Africa Ancient Egypt
Gardening Agriculture	Insects Entomology	Birds Ornithology	Animals Zoology
Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12
Grant & Lee Civil War and a Nation Reunited	World War I/II A World Super-Power (1900's)	History America's Story in Review	Great Lives of American History
Mexico South America Central America	Germany Austria-Hungry Eastern Europe Slavic Countries Russia Poland	The World's Story in Review	Great Lives of World History
Human Body Anatomy Physiology			

WEH IN ACTION

--We lost a member of our group, Mari, to a tragic accident. Our prayers and thoughts are with her family. But her influence will continue forward through her simple reminder to all of us. She wrote this a couple years ago:

"I believe homeschooling for me, personally, was about slowing down childhood by enjoying my girls more, Eden (7) and Bohe (5). I hear a lot of parents mention how they only have x number of summers with their kids before they are all grown and gone and that makes me sad. They know not to count school years because the days go by so fast. Having experienced this myself with my two older girls, my hope is to make our time together memorable. With that said I think journaling a sweet moment a day will become such a treasure tomorrow. Here's my entry for today:

"September 10, 2019

"The girls and I were watching the rainfall today and listening to the rolling thunder out in the porch while they were taking turns swinging in the hammock. When I came back out after grabbing a sweater they both ran up to me and gave me a hug, one behind the other. How I wanted to grab my phone to take a photo of them encircling me waist high with their little faces looking up at me...laughing.

"This is why, I said to myself. For these tender moments forever imprinted in my heart...sigh."

--I've been reading out loud from the Thornton Burgess book to my three boys (9, 7, 4) while we play at the park. It's been so enjoyable to just stretch out on a blanket and hear their laughter at the stories of silly woodland creatures. It's usually

just a couple chapters, 20 minutes or so, but they look forward to it whenever we head out to play. Reading it from the app has been a lifesaver!

--Just wanted to share something. I'm still new to WEH, I only discovered it last year and I haven't looked back. I was already doing some of the things--listening to good classical music, reading aloud, because that's what my mom did in our home growing up. However, I wouldn't say it was a true constant in our home. I was imperfectly good at it. :D However, WEH has helped define our home culture and made these things a constant.

Right now, I'm in bed recovering from major knee surgery. My oldest decided to bake cookies and what does she turn on to listen to as she bakes--Handel's Messiah, the Hallelujah Chorus because it just "speaks to her heart." Just wanted to say to those who are coming in "late" with their older kids, just start reading aloud--they will come, turn on the good music and they will hear it. Then in their own private moments, they will choose the better part because it truly does

speak to their heart.

--People often say to me, "You can't keep your children in a bubble." And I reply, "It's not a bubble it's a greenhouse."

A bubble stifles growth and blocks out nutrients. A greenhouse provides an environment for cultivation.

Children's hearts need to be "greenhoused" before they're ready to be transplanted out into the world. We release when their roots are deep and they are mature enough to withstand the storms, not beforehand.

While they're still under our protection, we take the responsibility for engaging them in learning about different cultures, ideologies and values. They should only know worldly teachings enough that they will be inoculated against them.

It's neither parenting out of fear or legalism, nor going to the opposite extreme of being too permissive.

No, our kids shouldn't grow up in a bubble. But they shouldn't be left



Art credit: The Greenhouse by Pierre-Auguste Renoir



“Every memorable war in history has been the painful discord preceding a period of splendid artistic renaissance. Such energies as were directed in channels of strife, react automatically in obedience to a merciful law and seek relief, under peaceful conditions, in more constructive activities. A revulsion of sentiment from gloom to brightness restores the human mind to its rightful estate--the quest for beauty.

“With the new era comes an awakened interest in the art.”

--Maude Oliver

I would say we are coming through a ‘war’ of sorts. I believe the draw to WEH is that search for relief, under at least a little more peaceful conditions. The quest for beauty is our ‘rightful’ estate.

Art credit: Der Maler auf einer Waldlichtung by Carl Spitzweg

(WEH in Action cont.) to the harsh outside elements, either.

The greenhouse of our home has all the right conditions for those young seeds to grow and flourish (Credit: Called to Mothering)

--**Last night I had a dream** that I was looking for some easy readers for my daughter at the library. The librarian couldn’t find the ones I wanted so she had me follow her into a secret part of the library that was for employees only. At first I was terrified because I had to climb on a very wobbly staircase, but she assured me I could do it.

Once I reached the top I saw the most beautiful books I had ever seen. Some of them were very old and I was just in awe, they were embossed with patterns of all sorts of colors and I recognized some of the titles which were classics. I was ready to forget about the easy readers and start looking through all these beautiful books. The librarian kept going from one place to another trying to find the books. She seemed to keep getting distracted and losing track of what she was doing. I didn’t dare touch any of the beautiful books. In the end I was getting tired of waiting for her. I knew I had to leave to get back to my family and then I realized I didn’t have my library card with me anyway. So I left.

When I woke up the thought that was going through my head was -- am I being like the librarian with my kids? Am I getting in their way? I spend a lot of time thinking about WEH, and planning and trying to get things organized and I run out of time to actually dive into the resources of art, music, poetry, story, etc. The librarian had kept me from delving into all that beauty that would have been so easy for me to just reach out and touch because she wanted to find just the right books.

So grateful for the grand buffet Marlene has laid out for us. My goal today is to actually partake of some of it!

These are thoughts from an old 1840 text written to show how the Mothers of England influence the great writers.

“Accomplishments and worldly attainments may be derived from others, but holiness, self-control, forbearance, love of truth, integrity, and all the other virtues of the heart, are only the Mother’s gift...

“...so that that genius which some would produce in a preconceived system, or implant by stratagem, or enforce by application, with her may be only the watchful labour of love.”

Art credit: Children in the Pasture by Luigi Chialiva



WEH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Why Read Old Books: https://www.theliterary.life/080/?fbclid=IwAR27eKw5IB8dwd4XEpTtNaazRrSpOO-XyD-fQ_fiKEYg_ksHM0AzvqlwG0e8

Movie: [The Aeronauts](#)

How to Homeschool Math by Denise Gaskins: https://denisegaskins.com/homeschool-math/?fbclid=IwAR0ud-kihpBOP4YVO-lzZzM88d5exa6EeEB8_tPLBOP960gwijru1dhPHyoo

How to watch best meteor shower of the year: <https://matadornetwork.com/read/best-meteor-shower-year-her-es-watch/?fbclid=IwAR0qAq-GWeIKwFsLB1MU0ELUyhKXi2IcwQiVO-zcfiBHv9U2shNeyRUS5mM>

[Storytimechess.com](#)

Shannon put together a document showing how various pieces of WEH can fulfill state schooling requirements. You can find it in the WEH Facebook Group Files, or click [here](#).



Chesterton on the importance of mothers:

“How can it be a large career to tell other people’s children about the Rule of Three, and a small career to tell one’s own children about the universe? How can it be broad to be the same thing to everyone, and narrow to be everything to someone? No; a woman’s function is laborious, but because it is gigantic, not because it is minute.”

Art credit: Unnamed, Carlton Alfred Smith

MOI MINUTE



Art credit: The Cherry Tree by Emile Munier

A note from Marlene: Marley Billings has been creating such a beautiful home for Mothers of Influence mothersofinfluence.org. She just updated a new version today and it is so wonderful. I encourage you to take a look! There are so many ideas for helping you start and maintain a MOI group there. I am so grateful for all Marley does! Now, let's hear from her:

In a conversation with a friend this weekend she commented there are so many good things out there to pursue with our time and money, but she'd come to realize that MOI was helping to consistently fill her heart in such a simple way.

I've been thinking a lot about the power of small and simple things. I often say MOI grows outward from our hearts together. Let me try to explain that a little more. When Jen and I first heard Marlene we barely knew what we were doing, but she had ignited a fire in us and we knew we wanted to keep it going. Marlene had some audios about art, music, poetry, storytelling, and nature, and we couldn't get enough of them. Jen and I listened to those over and over again.

Quickly there were three of us - and then four and then eight - and then even more mothers meeting in my living room each month. At

the time, there wasn't an introductory course or catch the vision resources. There weren't take-fives or podcasts, but Marlene mentioned something about a Mother's University, so we started reading those books together.

We didn't have the words for it then - but our starved hearts began awakening. The simple things we'd been learning and implementing lit us up and made us happy, and we found that it spilled over into the hearts of our children and families. This is the "feeling" MOI we keep talking about today.

Big things happened from those tiny little efforts. I know we can't explain it... I know when you read this it's hard to grasp or translate into your own efforts. Instead of telling you HOW to bring MOI to your neighborhood, the best we can do is remind you of the pattern for learning - "heart first" and that everything else flows from there.

MOI is simple. If it's feeling complicated - go back to the beginning and make it simple. Ask yourself - what does my heart need right now? Is it awareness? Is it just basking in beauty for a while? Is it a deep understanding of vision and what we hope to do together? Then, come with all those ideas and work with each other to create just enough structure for your MOI to meet those needs. In addition to what you decide to do together consider setting aside some time for sharing things you've gleaned from your independent study and experiences too. Your goal is deeper roots, inspired growth, and an encircling reach. The MOI website has lots of resources listed to help you concentrate on lifting your heart.

How about you? What have you seen grow outward from a small and simple effort? Have you found some creative ways to meet the needs of every person in your group?