

Dear Friends,

May we share with you the latest news and goings-on at Hannah's House? This evening we celebrated the First Birthday of one of our "babies" who is not to be called a baby for much longer! He is an active seeker, exploring what's behind every open door. And when he pulls himself up, he can easily reach even the door knobs! So we're all getting accustomed to what it is that makes a house safe for a newly mobile little person. Somehow he's able to discover what has not yet been child-proofed! It has been a joy to watch him develop a personality, and his laughter seems to invite us all to join in!

But there was another part of our evening meal together - a conversation over our pizza and birthday cake. The women began to discuss the absent father and indeed, the absent men in their lives and in the lives of their little ones. Comments ranged from disappointment and disillusionment with the men who have turned away from the responsibility they share in bringing a child into the world to surprisingly enough - anger at Eve for eating the apple! "Why did she have to eat that apple?"

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They were right about the "genesis" of sin in our world, but perhaps unaware that it wasn't merely the choice to eat or not eat an apple. Were their musings about Eve merely a supper time story of sour grapes? Or was Our Lord at work -- opening eyes to the reality of a "Paradise Lost" in each of our lives - a condition that we were not made for. One of the staff brought up the possibility that rather than being merely a choice of eating a piece of fruit, this was a case of two persons falling for a rather sly suggestion. The serpent was in effect saying, "Perhaps God (their Maker, and the Maker of all that was good around them) was holding out on them." In the words of one pastor, "Satan accuses God of being a bad Father, lacking in love. It's a lie. But all too often, we fall for the lie, and end up seeking happiness - apart from God."

May we ask for your prayer for these dinner time conversations, as well as the conversations on the couch in the living room, or the thoughts expressed as we take a walk together to the park? For we want to continue the story- What happens next? To them (Adam and Eve)? And to us? For ourselves as staff, accompanying the women spiritually means acknowledging that their questions are valid and pointing to the reality that our Maker is a God of Love. He doesn't hold out on us. In fact, He chose to deal with our fallen condition in a most amazing way - a way that cost Him his very life. That's how much He cared about correcting the lie and reversing its damage. May Our Lord continue to give us ears to hear and eyes to see the "hints" of His work in the lives of these women who share a home with us. And wisdom to engage them well in the larger story.

And as Mother's Day approaches, this quote by Edith Stein is our desire for all of us as women: "The woman's soul is fashioned as a shelter in which other souls may unfold." May it be so with God's help.

With gratitude for your many gifts and prayers,
Susan Ayers

PS. Please join us at the upcoming 5K event to celebrate God's work among us and to raise funds to continue!