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 SF703 Sp. Formation Capstone
 Dr. Wanda Walborn
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Personal Timeline

Childhood

- Born in New Hampshire during an April blizzard, but lived in Maine
- Learn to sing hymns while still in utero
- Self-weaned from breastfeeding just before the age of 2
- Was attachment parented
- Blessed with two younger sisters, for one of whom I cut the umbilical cord
- Read the “Little House on the Prairie” series by age 5 and then multiple times
- Learned to grasp the power of writing from incredible teachers in 1st grade
- Spent my life in a home surrounded by quality books which did not sit idly on shelves
- Was allowed to be a child
- Accepted Christ at the age of 5 – at my insistence to my Daddy that he stop teaching class to speak with me
- Dealt with a negative self-image until my parents intentionally taught me to stop saying “I can’t” and learn to believe that I could by bringing me to gymnastics for a hands-on learning experience
- Became sanctified at the age of 7 during an incredible school playground experience
- Had my best friend, etc. turn on me for befriending the “outcasts”
- Spent the rest of my school career in advanced academic classes with these same people who ridiculed, taunted, and persecuted me, however:
- Embraced Ephesians 6:12 as my life verse, learned to see those who “persecuted” me as those who did not know what they were doing and needed to be shown the love of Christ
- At age 8, became a staff kid at a Christian Camp where my family lived during the summers
- At age 8, baptized and began hearing God’s clear voice audibly and repeatedly calling me to ministry
- At age 9, began teaching the pre-school age Children’s Church
- Sang in the children’s choir
- Began playing flute
- Had an incredible 4th grade teacher who taught me to push myself
- Was always the sister who “got her way” because she behaved, and tried to teach my sisters to do the same – believe it or not, I always had a great relationship with them

Adolescence

- Encouraged in my writing by an amazing English teacher
- Loved academia (always have and still do)
- Was never pushed to grow up too fast, but only at my own pace
- Still a Christian Camp staff kid, but began to move onto staff
- At church, sang in choir, taught Children’s Church, played flute, joined the handbell choir as soon as we had one

- Declined moving into adult choir as I believed, and was affirmed in doing so, that the children's choir needed older "children" to help guide the younger ones – this started a trend for adolescents staying to help out
- Watched the camp dining hall, which my great grandfather designed when he was camp director, burn down a stone's throw away from my bedroom – this affected me intensely and left me with a fear of fire (campfires at summer camp became difficult – not so much for the fire, but the intense emotion of singing the campfire songs and remembering)
- Was invited to read scripture at the dedication of the new dining hall because my great grandfather had dedicated the last one in his position as camp director – his daughter, my grandmother, gave me a gold cross that he was never without as a pastor, and told me that she saw Jesus in me and that I was the family member who was going to follow in his footsteps (I was 13)
- By age 14 began leading some of the Youth Group meetings under the tutelage of the youth leader, including planning and implementing all aspects (game, snack, Bible Study)
- Moved onto camp staff younger than was technically allowed to – had to remind Ed (the man over both camps) of a promise he had made to me at age 12 that I could join staff early; he shuffled some parameters around in order to keep his promise to me – worked as kitchen staff, redesigned and, literally, wrote the book on camp dining room hostessing, counseled all ages and all abilities (small children to seniors to adults with special needs)
- Participated intensely in drama and all choirs/bands in middle school and high school
- Took all Advanced Placement courses
- Had a few close friends, but was ridiculed and teased for my beliefs from all those in my classes – oddly, I never failed to be regarded as a leader when it came to anything that had to get done academically; the taunting was simply a social state of affairs
 - Note: we had an odd senior class who came together and planned our own events/field trips/activities outside of school hours for our entire senior year
- Had my best friend move in after she was abandoned by her parents
- Met my husband through Christian camping when we were 16
- Preached twice for Sunday morning services while in high school
- Was told by a friend that I was (financially) rich. Far from it and astounded, I went to my mother with that statement. My mother's reply: "You are rich. You are a daughter of the King and rich in Him."
- At age 18, learned I had an older brother
- The best friend who had been instrumental in leading the rest of the "in" crowd to dump me in second grade, wrote in my yearbook that she wished she had had the conviction to stand up for her beliefs as I had done all those years

Adulthood

- Moved to Toccoa Falls College – wanted to study to be a minister, but, as a female, had to settle for youth ministry (which I was also passionate about)
- Married, had twins, followed by 3 single births – 4 boys, 1 girl – in that order
- Found my 2 (still) best friends by putting an add in the paper for nursing moms of twins
- Practiced attachment parenting, family bed, and child-led weaning

- 3 boys born in Toccoa, moved to Nashua, NH where the last 2 children were born
- Homeschooled all through highschool
- Moved to Keystone Heights, FL when baby girl, youngest, was 21 months old
- Active Boy Scout Leader in many roles
- Launched American Heritage Girls Troop for my daughter (served in many roles)
- Music Director at local Alliance church (worship team & choirs) for 12 years – redesigned music program and passionately taught about what worship truly is
- During above time, finished B.A. in Youth Ministry at TFC online, became consecrated with C&MA
- Participated in several medical mission trips to the Dominican Republic, one to Uruguay, and now one to Cambodia
- Bought house in next town over, still in ministry at same church
- Started attending ATS
- Moved from my Alliance church to another due to extreme and increasing restrictions placed on me as a woman in ministry
- Had an incredible healing experience
- Was redeemed/rescued intensely by my Father
- Now drive over an hour to church with a broken heart for my own community
- Completed MA, moved on to MDIV
- During above time, graduated all children, married 3, had one granddaughter
- Now serving as Missions Pastor
- Reconnected with 2 best friends – set intentional time apart to get together each year
- Having a blast with my grown children (loved teenage years as well)
- Thoroughly enjoying every moment with my husband

Important People

Reflecting over my life, the most important people (in no particular order) include my parents, my in-laws, my siblings, my best friends, my children, and my husband. My parents taught me to embrace who God called me to be. My in-laws, although they are loved and they love me, have taught me who I do not wish to be. My sisters can always be counted on to be my sisters (this is good). My three best friends, although one is from younger years and two from adulthood, accept me as I am and push me to be better. My children taught me more lessons than I could ever recap and, because my husband and I encouraged them to be honest with us and who God called them to be, continue to have excellent relationships with us and with one another.

Last but not least, my husband is my best friend above all others; we passionately enjoy every moment we have together.

Main Character Forming Decisions

In second grade, when I befriended a lonely sole on the playground and subsequently lost all my friends, God placed me firmly on a path that left me seeking only Him. He gave me Ephesians 6:12, showing me that even though I might be taunted and teased, people who did not know better were actually attacking Him and I was to bear witness, to shine His light, into the darkness. Because of my passion for Him, I was thoroughly protected from the difficult temptations through which most teenagers pass. God gave me a boldness through the gift of His Holy Spirit. This one decision and God's response to me for my obedience set me on a trajectory of obedience that has never failed to be blessed. The overwhelming and incomprehensible intensity of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at that moment, has been the catalyst for all other life decisions.

Despite this, as I grew into adulthood and became increasingly involved in a denomination that put women in the backseat, I began to question my place and lost my boldness. Over time this loss of boldness became so extreme that I would get hives whenever I was speaking to people. I went through a time in which I had allergic reactions to just about everything I ate, but God called my attention back, healed me from the allergies, gave me the word "bold," and pulled me up out of the mire. Ephesians 6:12 became a reminder that just because someone is a Christian does not mean that he/she embraces the freedom and equality that God has extended to all His children. God taught me to see these people as living without full freedom and broke my heart for them. Thus, when God removed me from one church and moved me to another, although it was a time of great pain and struggle, I do not harbor

unforgiveness, but live with a broken heart for the lack of freedom in which those whom I call family live.

I must add to this section my decision to practice attachment parenting. This means that I treasured my children and learned to respond to them in a wholistic manner. This has aided in my ability to see “the whole person” as a beloved creation of God which, I believe, draws people of all ages to trust me and to pour out their hearts.

Ongoing Response to God During Life Circumstances

My parents taught me that all I have belongs to God; it is only given to me to use for a time, during which, I must be a good steward. They also ingrained in me the beauty in every person, the need for every person to be accountable to God, and the uniqueness of giftings that God distributes to His children. Those giftings must be passionately pursued under His guidance to participate fully in His Kingdom. They taught me to run to God, not away. Thus, when trying circumstances come up in life, I walk into them full on, trusting that God is already there before me beckoning His children to Him and inviting me to be a part of His amazing work.

When God gave me Ephesians 6:12, He showed me that, come what may, I must see people as His precious children. I must recognize that there is a battle going on for souls and that, while I am on the winning side, many others are struggling in the grasp of the Deceiver. Whether it is an unbeliever or a Christian living under partial truths, God desires full freedom for all and has given me the incredible opportunity to be a part of leading others into the freedom which He is always extending. Ephesians 6:12 shapes my response to those people /events in life which seek me harm.

I stand firmly on the Truth that God is never against me. I stand firmly on the Truth that while I may go through hard things, I am being upheld by His right hand. I stand firmly on the

Truth that even though I may not understand to completeness, I am to trust and obey. I stand firmly on the Truth that I am uncompromisingly and passionately loved. I stand firmly on the Truth that people are to be valued and loved. So, in life circumstances, while not yet perfected, my response to God is to enjoy and obey the voice which I hear guiding me. I love to bask in His voice that speaks to me in many ongoing ways and relax into the peace it always brings.

Patterns of God Working

There is not a moment in my life that I cannot see God's hand at work. He gave me parents who decided before having children to break family sin patterns. He taught me to say, "I can." He wrapped me in a bubble of His protection to keep me away from the world's charms. He taught me how to stand as a strong witness in the face of ridicule. He gifted me the tools to love academia. He set me in places at church, at camp, and at school to serve Him by serving others and offered me opportunity to grow my gifts and my talents. He gave me my husband at a young age so that we could grow together. He blessed us with incredible children and wisdom in connecting with them. He brought multiple avenues into my life to actively engage in loving people of all ages and continued growing me despite painful ministry circumstances. He led me through an intense experience of learning what it means to be oppressed so that He could lift me back up to learn to empower others. He supplies my wants and needs without my even asking. He grew me from a small fearful child to a woman who claims boldness, a boldness that is not available without Him.

Conclusion: How God Has Used Me to Minister to Others

From before birth, God set me on a trajectory that would allow me to minister to others in a variety of ways. From music, to counseling, to camping, to leading, to teaching, to preaching, to listening, to parenting, to "spousing," to "daughtering," to "sistering," to organizing, to

writing, to creative problem solving, to doing life together, there is nothing that I have not done or am not willing to try. My flesh often fails, however I firmly believe that God gives me what I need for the task at hand because not only is what I do for Him, but He goes before, and He holds me while I go through. I am so incredibly blessed that I cannot begin to express it. Not only does He love me, but, as demonstrated throughout this paper, throughout the course of my life He has given me multiple opportunities and ways to love others and display His love through a lifestyle of ministry.