

snapshot.

a glimpse of Life!



May 2008

The Promise of Spring



Bob Lenz

New Life

Spring... The second leading time of year for suicide. Probably not what you expected to read, is it? Only Christmas has more. Why spring, you might ask? Because everything is turning green outside; there's new life, flowers, trees are budding, and hope for change is all around. But inside some still feel dead, cold and wintry. See, most suicides don't happen in the depth of depression, but after things start going good for a while and back to what they may see as "normal." But even "normal" doesn't fill the void. A ray of hope... then back to hopelessness.

We also have prom this time of year and there are many who aren't asked to go who feel unwanted. Then the ones that are going to prom face choices: drugs, drinking and driving. I was just with a senior who is graduating the end of May and she can only think of 10 classmates out of 150 in her graduating class who haven't drank in high school. Then, of course, you have prom night temptations to go all the way sexually. I know and believe it's wrong, but sometimes I have a hard time blaming them for giving in. No, I'm not okaying it. It's just that I've seen the pain and pressure they face. I see the lack of safe places, the emptiness, and the desperation.

Looking for Love

"I'm one who never fit in," she said. These words came from a girl I spoke with in Pennsylvania where I spoke a few weeks ago. "I'm teased and have had rocks thrown at me," she continued. "I was raped and have to deal with physical, emotional and verbal abuse. I had my fingers bent backwards and was knocked unconscious. I don't understand. I'm a nice person. And I try to be very kind to everyone. I just wanted to be treated with some measure of humanity... Some measure of decency. I don't fit in any where. Home. School. Don't they know I still have a heart? I still do, you know."

I couldn't believe my ears as I listened to her. Then she told me she never believed in God because she couldn't understand how he could let all these bad things happen to her. Do you see why the intimacy of sex, even for a night, would seem so appealing to her? It was something that made her feel wanted, cherished and held. She maybe even convinced herself that it might really be love. When her boyfriend broke up with her she started cutting. It all culminated with a suicide attempt the week before I came to her school.

She mentioned how she had been at a party over the weekend where the conversation of why bad things happen to people came up again. She recalled someone saying, "I don't know why it happens, but I know God is big enough and can turn something so *[expletive]* into something beautiful. Because God is love and that's not his purpose."

The party where these stirring words were spoken took place on the weekend. Only a few days later she heard me at her school sharing another message of hope: that no matter what people have done... abused you, used you or abandoned you, you still have value. Something stirred in her once again and she was intrigued enough to come back in the evening where she told me this story, her story, while sharing pizza after the program.

I looked at her and asked, "Where are you now with the whole God thing?" She replied, "I know there has to be something or someone out there somewhere." Her tone changed slightly as she went on, "It's just like your talk said, Bob... I'm looking for love. I'm just looking for love." She lowered her head, unable to look up. I reached out to lift her chin to have her look at me. I asked, "Did you raise your hand tonight?" With tears now rolling down her cheeks she said, "Yes. Yes, I did." I asked her why. She simply responded, "I guess I believe. I guess I do believe in Jesus after all."

End of story. Actually not. I think it's just the beginning of a new story. Pray that she stays connected with a local faith community. Someone from the church who brought us in is following up with her so she can grow in her new relationship with God and have a network of people who can help her through the pains and hurts of life. Pray for them too, as they minister to her.

You can be a part of reaching young people for Christ! Please know we are getting in front of as many youth as we can. Donate online now at www.lifepromotions.com. Click on "Supporters." Thank you!

For the Kingdom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Lenz', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bob Lenz
International Speaker

