

## The Journey of a Single Mom

*“For there is hope...” Job 14:7*

Hi, my name is Linda Kelleher and I've been a single mom for 13 years. I was raised in Dolton, Illinois by my wonderful earthly father and mother and I have one brother who still resides in Illinois. We were raised in a Christian home. I accepted Jesus as my Savior in a Pentecostal (Assembly of God) Church in Hammond, Indiana at the age of 13 years old. Like the majority of teens, I walked away from church at the age of 18. After dating someone for four years who was a non-believer, at the age of 21, I became married. He was a non-believer and we were married for 18 years. Through our marriage we were blessed with two sons, Brian 23 and Steven 19. Both are attending college at this time and both have received Jesus Christ as their Savior.

At the time of my divorce my boys were 6 and 10. I knew what lay ahead of me as a single parent, now being the head of the household, the authority in the house and financial provider. Even though my ex-husband was providing child support, he had left me with a lot of bills. Times were certainly tough. Through my whole married life, I never forgot that Jesus loved me and that I could always go to him anytime through any situation. I knew he would always be there to listen to me, that he would answer my prayers, and that he would protect us. My desire had been that once we started a family, we would attend church together. My husband did not share this same desire.

Soon after my divorce, friends had asked me to volunteer with a doctor at Gillespie Park, medically taking care of the homeless on Sundays. They then invited me to go to South Shore Community Church with them. The church was meeting at the Nazarene Church at that time. During this time, I rededicated my life to Christ. I had a church family, I was growing spiritually, and I had people I could bounce things off of. In addition, my children had youth leaders in their lives. I did not do life alone; God provided Christian people to pour into me and my boys. He heard my prayers.

It is hard to believe that was 13 years ago. Through those 13 years, I have made many wonderful friendships. I have plugged into SSCC as a volunteer. I serve on the Women's Ministry Team, MS/HS Ministry, and lead a women's small group. I am currently leading a Single Mom's class and oh, yes, I also work full time. I am faithful at honoring God's command to have a Sabbath, which is every Sunday. I am in His word daily and I have several I can go to for wise counsel.

After 13 years of internal healing, raising boys, having a church home and Christians in my life, I am able to stand before you as a single mom with the ability to pour into your journey. Using the experiences that God allowed to happen in my life, I am able to give back through being obedient to his calling of starting this Single Mom's Bible study.

Lori Little is the author of "Hope and Help for Single Moms." There are 21 principles of a healthy single mom that God gave her when she thought she could do no more in life. This study touches on every aspect of being a single parent; it gives practical insight and biblical principles in dealing specifically with single mom issues. This study helps to defeat what the enemy wants you to believe and focuses on what God has planned for

your life. You will begin to see yourself as God sees you and in turn become an integral tool of influence in your children's lives.

The 21 principles encourage single moms to grow spiritually in the midst of our overwhelming circumstances, leading us to live a life of purpose and meaning, focus and order, balance and harmony. After reading this book, I related to every topic she taught and thought wow, this study would have been great for me 13 years ago.

Just recently the ladies that I am teaching now from the Salvation Army have been asking me and the ladies on the team (Kathy and Kathleen) if this class counted thru DCF (Department of Children and Family). The team made a connection for me to submit the study before a DCF leader. Because of the great tracking of attendance and testimonies from the girls in the study, it was granted to be part of their plan task toward completing parenting classes. God opened the door. I also heard from the girls at the Salvation Army that they had been praying for me as I presented this study that day. Thank you GOD!!

In the past few days another door has opened. The Salvation Army is allowing me and the team to do a summer session at their facility. This allows the moms to stay on campus and come to SSCC for church on Saturday. I am very excited and am praying for God to recruit some *single mom leaders to help out at the Salvation Army*. If you are interested in joining our team, please contact me by replying to this email, we have various volunteer opportunities for you.

A new session will begin here at SSCC on September 3<sup>rd</sup> located in the house for a second round, and all are invited. If you know a single mom, hand her a flyer. This class can be for single, widowed or divorced moms that are still raising children.

If you know a business that will let you put it on their window, board, or wall, there are posters available in the fellowship area of the church. *If you would like to help with the September class at SSCC*, please contact me by replying to this email. Flyers can be picked up at the welcome center in the Fellowship Hall.

It is important to get the word out; there are a lot of single moms in this community. In the book of Job 14:7-9 it says, *“For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant.”* Take time to give single moms Hope & Help through the *“scent of water”* and restore their title “Mom”.

Thank you and God bless you,

Linda Kelleher  
Woman's Ministry Team Member and  
Single Mom's Leader



Edited by Kay Adams and Julie Searer