

## Anna Marie Lambeth Thoughts from her 91 year old mother

Thoughts from my 91-year-old, wise and innocent, giving and loving, tiny but strong, Mom.

A message she shared with me that she wishes she had the courage to share at our most recent SWMO field meeting regarding CSA and SA in our fellowship. I hope Mom's thoughts, and her story and journey in this mess, summarized below, will give encouragement, hope and courage re the elderly among us.

Mom's words to me:

*“Some may think, as I did when I first heard about these meetings, can they do any good???”* [Insert for tone & clarity of meaning; she doubted they could..]

*After the first meeting someone said to me ‘some people talk too much’.* [Insert for tone & clarity of meaning; she didn't much respect that comment.]

*I've had a lot of time to think; and I now believe that if many years ago people would have talked more, and if we would have had some of these meetings, a lot of pain and suffering would have been avoided.”*

I share this for 2 reasons.

1. To share her voice....

I knew my quiet Mom wouldn't speak at our field friends and workers meeting. She was even concerned for me when she knew I would be. But there was no question that she would be in that meeting. One purpose of our meeting was to meet with our field family, so any who wished could give voice to and discuss their questions and concerns.

So I use this post now, to give voice for my Mom's thoughts which are from her heart. I also share this because when I asked her if she would like me to post this on line, her answer was a quiet but firm 'yes'.

## 2. Her journey, behind her thoughts.....

Mom first went to meeting as a little girl just a few years old. She does not have internet, is not a gossip, and just lives a quiet life that revolves around her love for God, Jesus, meetings, family, workers, friends and fellowship. She has had meeting in her home for many years. She has such an open home and would rather give to others than be given to. These abuses have not been her experience in her life. Her life has been mostly local, living and working on a farm. She is a lot frailer than she used to be, in body anyway. (I bet you all know someone like that)

When a letter from our overseer about DB was to be shared in her meeting, I knew I had to talk to her first; I didn't want her to be blindsided. What I told her sort of registered, but she doesn't have a history or personality that would easily see deception and evil. (Don't get me wrong, she is smart and sharp.) She said 'well I don't really understand it'. As time went along and more things became known, I'd just gently share a little more, I knew in my core she had to have some awareness. She would tell me "I just can't handle knowing lots of details". And she was right. Then. But in it all, she listened & accepted as she could what I told her of terrible things we were learning. It was Not easy to tell her about these things, I would much rather have not... But Mom is smart and would never choose to be left in the dark about this reality. She thought about it all, listened and learned.

And now; she sees, she knows, she believes, she cares, she knows that wrong has to change. She isn't one to stick her head in the sand and look the other way. Is she ever going to be loud and be an activist? Is she ever going to believe or know everything that is being revealed. Nah. But that is ok. And she doesn't need to know it all. Because she has a heart of love and an eye for truth. And that is solid gold, and a foundation to work from. A foundation where we must be open, honest to the point of blunt, to listen to sort out what is right, what is wrong.

So, Take Courage from my Mom's story. Share with your friends information as they are able to take in. Give people grace and time to grapple with the fracturing of what was believed to be fully trusted and completely solid. Without me and others who gave information to Mom, she would still not know what is going on. She would have eventually learned, perhaps a harder way. This must never be hidden and shushed or tolerated again. I'm so proud of my Mom, her kindness, her wisdom, her love.

I hope this story will give someone just a little encouragement for today.