

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

“EDUCATION THROUGH ART MAY BE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT, NOT SO MUCH FOR TURNING OUT ARTISTS OR ART PRODUCTS, AS FOR TURNING OUT BETTER PEOPLE...”

--ABRAHAM MASLOW

--Happy November—the month of Gratitude. I’m so grateful for all of you and the many small and simple ways you are making our world a more beautiful place.

This month, as we continue our story of America, we see the need for declaring independence from our Mother country, England. It’s not that England is a terrible mother. England has so much rich treasure in her heritage and history for us to learn from. And where would we be without the gifted writers and poets of England. But much like children growing up, it’s time to cut the apron strings and set off on our own. It won’t be easy. The players of that age will need to risk their homes, their honor, and even their lives. How grateful we are that there were brave men and women willing to do that.

While we are visiting England, we’ll also take time to visit her other neighbors, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

As we continue our story of the creation of our beautiful world, we’ll focus on the rocks and mountains.

And in our Mother’s University, we’ll be revisiting the topic of Music.

What layers of learning will you be adding this round?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--Calling all grandmothers! We have recently added a space for GRAND-MOIS in our Mothers of Influence community. Actually, you don’t have to be a grandmother to join us. We are looking for women who are ready to dive deeper and to give back; who have time for deeper study and reflection. As we continue to build this Belle Ame dream, we have need of seasoned and mature mentors for our young people who will be joining us for a campus experience as well as other opportunities you will be learning about to serve our young adults and even families of your neighborhoods

and communities.

For you young moms in our communities, we hope you'll invite your moms to join us! If this is new to them, no worries. There will be an opportunity to go through Catch the Vision with other older moms and discuss and apply the principles.

We are just getting started. Invite them to go to mothersofinfluence.org and look for the GrandMOI space in the navigation bar where there will be a welcome video.

--Insights from Tim, our Belle Ame campus director:

Tools.

It takes time to learn to use them. At first, we're awkward, fumble-fingered, frustrated. This tool that was supposed to make things easier seems to get in the way.

As our young adult apprentices help build elements of campus they learn new skills and new tools. "You made it look so easy!" they say when they've watched me put in a few screws, then try themselves.

They struggle. And the grand secret is that the learning is in the struggle. They get better, more expert.

Soon, rather than focusing on the tool, they use it as an integrated extension of themselves as their attention shifts from learning the tool back to the real purpose, the reason they needed the tool in the first place. The job to be done.



Perhaps you felt those same feelings as you began a new stage in educating yourself or your children. Perhaps you thought, looking at someone with more experience, “You make it look so easy!”

Maybe, when you found new tools such as Libraries of Hope and the rotation schedule, you felt awkward, fumble-fingered, frustrated. Maybe you feel that way now. You struggle.

But the learning is in the struggle. As you keep using the tools, you get better -- more expert.

Soon, the tools become an integrated part of yourself rather than the focus of your attention, and you're able to put all your energy and focus back on the main thing. The job to be done: the softening, refining, and education of your own heart and the hearts of your children.



--From current BA apprentice, Lily:

It's been a crazy first week at Belle Ame. I think some peace is in order.

I love rain and the Sun and the sky. It rained this week! I have enjoyed the comfort of the breath the earth takes here with every bit of living water that lands upon it. I have woken every morning to a natural painting of great beauty the sun wakes to splash color on the sky, and the same as it descends after a full day. Giving me one last beautiful thing before I close my eyes. I thank the Creator for all of the gifts that can be seen here and they all have given me peace. Even as the things of the world return to dust. I am at peace. That I will turn to the skies.

MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--I've been thinking about a quote someone posted recently from Maslow:

“Education through Art, may be especially important not so much for turning out artists or art products, as for turning out better people...”

“If we have clearly in our mind the educational goals for human beings...if we hope for our children that they will become full human beings...then, as nearly as I can make out, the only kind of education in existence today that has any faint inkling of such goals is Art Education.”

We keep saying WEH is different. I think this sums up the difference. We are human BEings, not human DOings and our focus is on BEing which is why this is an Art-based learning platform. Jesus taught the BEattitudes, not



Art credit: Junges Mädchen auf Einer Wiese by Adolf Echtler

the DOattitudes. We want our kids to be kind, be faithful, be loving, be curious, be creative, be humble, be meek. Yet the most often asked question here is: How do I DO this? Just tell me what to DO.

In fact, the #1 reason moms leave is because they feel like they aren't DOing enough and they panic and buy an open-and-go curriculum so they can feel like they are DOing something. They feel a tremendous need to DO school.

And yet those DOings actually work against this state of BEing that we are working towards.

This state of being can't be tested or measured or even directly planned. But as you consistently provide a rich environment of learning filled with music, art, poetry and story and spend as much time outside in God's classroom, you start to see the ripening fruit.

It is from that state of BEing that our actions are governed. Not the other way around.

No enduring masterpiece of literature was written because a writer paid strict attention to correctly spelled words or perfectly constructed sentences. Rather, it first poured out of a very full heart.

That is the Pattern for Learning and Creation that is the very heart of WEH: first tend to the heart through the Arts. The academic skills are secondary.

In a world riddled with attention deficit disorders, the Arts slow us down and help us pay attention. It is only as we pay attention that we grow to love something.

Like Charlotte Mason taught, it isn't how much our kids know that matters nearly as much as how many things they care about.

I know WEH can feel like a lonely road...that's why we have created community so that you can find like-minded

families and walk a different path with someone else.

In the days to come, I see your children as being the leaven, the salt, the candle in the darkness in a world that is growing 'past feeling.'

Belle Ame means 'Beautiful Soul.' We are in the business of growing beautiful eternal souls, not global workers for a global economy. That requires a different course. I pray for you every day.

--Month 2 includes a study of Brave Little Holland. Today I want to highlight [podcast #26](#) of lessons I learned from her and her fight for freedom. Her story is so similar to America's story. In fact, the Dutch influenced many of our Founders.

Just as our Republic was being born, Holland's Republic was in decline. It is worth noting the reasons:

There was too much concentration into the central government. The political machinery became clogged and at times almost suffered paralysis. Among the people, a spirit of luxury and extravagance took hold. They became weakened in old earnestness, integrity, devotion to high principles, sound ideas of honor, reverence for women, frugality and temperance. A money-loving spirit increased. Religion became formal. Manners declined. The love of strong liquors increased. Commerce, credit, the navy and army declined. The virtues of republican faith in God, high motives, grand actions, and simplicity in dress, food, and life had fallen to common levels.

Does anything sound familiar?

So is there hope for us? Can we turn things around? I close the podcast on a note of hope.



“IT WILL TAKE JUST ONE GENERATION CHOOSING GENTLE, COMPASSIONATE, RESPECTFUL PARENTING TO CHANGE THE WORLD FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS. THIS IS OUR TIME. OUR CHANCE IS NOW. LET’S DO OUR PART TO CHANGE THE WORLD, ONE LITTLE HEART AT A TIME.”

--L.R. Knost

Art credit: The Wood Gatherer
by Jules Bastien-Lepage

Mama's, hold onto your babies and the heavenly privilege God blessed you with – that of raising and nurturing them to adulthood.

The state will never love, care for, or want what's best for your child. The state only ever wants what is best for the state and it will break, exploit, and indoctrinate your child for its own corrupt and greedy purposes with zero guilt or remorse. It has no conscience.

The state does not want to have to compete with you or with God for your child's loyalty, so it will push you and God out of it's way, and/or make a pretense of including/engaging you – not in the education of your child, but as an unwitting participant in the indoctrination and exploitation of your child.

The state wants your child's loyalty (learned dependency) and obedience to make them a cog in its economic engine and a loyal serf that will vote to keep its power and control agenda always moving forward. No matter how much you or your child gives, the state will never love you back, it will just continue to take, and take, and then take some more.

Give your child what the state can never give them – your undying love for them and a deep devotion to, and testimony in, Jesus Christ – the only one mighty enough to rescue, save, and deliver any of us.

Your role as mother is no small thing and the state knows it. Your little ones are precious gifts from God sent to you to love. Cherish, protect, and train them accordingly. It's an investment that will pay heavenly dividends in love and joy and peace in time and in eternity.

--Natalie Cline

IF YOU COULD ERASE ALL THE MISTAKES OF YOUR PAST, YOU WOULD ALSO ERASE THE WISDOM AND GROWTH OF YOUR PRESENT. EVERY MISSTEP AND CHALLENGE YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PERSON YOU ARE TODAY. EACH ERROR HAS BEEN A TEACHER, EACH SETBACK A LESSON, AND EACH DIFFICULTY A STEPPING STONE TOWARDS GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND STRENGTH. YOUR JOURNEY, WITH ALL ITS UPS AND DOWNS, HAS SHAPED YOUR PERSPECTIVE AND RESILIENCE. EMBRACING YOUR PAST, WITH ALL ITS IMPERFECTIONS, ALLOWS YOU TO VALUE THE WISDOM YOU'VE GAINED AND APPRECIATE HOW FAR YOU'VE COME. THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM YOUR EXPERIENCES ARE THE TRUE TREASURES THAT GUIDE YOU AND ENRICH YOUR LIFE.