



Alice Lewallen

Along with my husband, I continue to give to Wellspring both financially and as a volunteer for the very simple reason that my life has never been SO positively impacted by any other ministry! After being awakened to Deep Desires and the unbelievable reality that God made me for those desires, I wanted More: more opportunities to learn to live from those God-given desires, to allow the truth of The Four Realities to be more fully internalized, to grow in loving others.

Within the fellowship of Wellspring Group, I find friends who believe in me, who are open to letting our mutual involvement be the practice field for learning the heart and skills of engaging, of becoming the men and women we're created to be. We share common fears and desires and find that we are not alone, that we are free to be needy and vulnerable with each other and to experience the beginnings of our deep desires for significance and connection met through our fellowship. I have been inspired by their trust, humbled by their vulnerability, drawn by their desire for "more."

Being asked to facilitate and teach in Battle for Women's Hearts events has given me rich opportunities for allowing God to teach me as I prepare and show me how much He has done for me; it has been my joy to tell others those stories of His love and goodness to me.

My sister facilitators have affirmed my efforts and echoed God's voice of Validation, giving me courage to improve my skills. I feel seen and valued, wanted and loved. In short, I find great satisfaction in being part of a fellowship that not only provides good teaching but also calls me into a fuller experience of the LIFE and impact I was created for.



Dana Smith

One of the most impactful aspects of leadership equipping I have experienced is having the privilege to speak at Battle for Women's Hearts events. The process itself caused me to connect to my own heart in a way that I hadn't done before and allowed me to connect the threads of an amazing tapestry that God was weaving through my pain and surrender.

I teach Reality 2B: "If you do not find a way no one will." When I present this session, I share about my 3 adopted children and particularly focus on part of my oldest daughter's story. At age 18, she attempted suicide. As we got her the help she needed afterward, her biggest secret was revealed. Because of the change my husband and I had experienced through the Battle process, we were able to show her grace, acceptance, and love in a place where she expected rejection and abandonment. She was transformed and our relationships with her were as well.

At the February 2014 BWH, I shared the same story for the second time. My prayer was that I would be fully present: connected to God, to the material, to my own heart, and to the audience. As I neared the end of my session that Friday morning, the following sentence came out of my mouth: "Though I have never physically birthed a child, I gave birth to my daughter that night." It was a Holy Spirit hijack kind of moment. Those words were not on my paper and had never come out of my mouth before. It was in that moment that I realized this truth for the first time. God had used me to birth life into my daughter's heart!

Larry could tell by the stunned expression on my face that something was happening. He stopped the session to cover me and to allow me to explain what was happening in my heart. In that moment, I realized how I had judged my body as broken all those years because it had not produced life. Tears filled my eyes and the eyes of everyone in the room. We all realized that we were experiencing a holy moment.

Indeed, God had answered my prayer to keep me fully present! I later found out that at least one other woman there had judged not only her body but also her marriage as broken because their union never bore genetic children. She was receiving deep healing as she sat in the audience and listened to what was happening in me, and her healing met my desire for impact beyond what I could have expected.

In the months that followed, God continued to show me my unique expression as a life-giver. This ironic since the first time I heard the latter half of the Wellspring definition of a woman—to offer life and rest to her domain—I literally laughed out loud. I thought you might as well ask me to grow a tree out of my head as to think I could offer life and rest. I felt as though I had no life and rest in me. How could I offer it to anyone else? For God to identify me as someone who truly offered life to those He brought into my path blows my mind!

To bring this redemptive story full circle, in just a few short days I will have the awe-inspiring privilege of being the birthing coach for this same daughter as we welcome my grandson into the world. God has redeemed 15 years of wrong thinking (and 15 years of broken relationships) in the last 4 years and has used Wellspring's Speaker Equipping Track in astounding ways to solidify who God created me to be. Now I know that I know I am the mother my kids need—in the way God created me, redeemed me, and is restoring me. I am facing this uncharted territory with my daughter from a place of surrender and dependence, and am experiencing the glory of God in ways I never have before.



Mike Woodham

For most of my adult life I have lived in the shadows of life. Wellspring has offered me a process of developing myself around the essence of my masculinity that has been not only transformational but also sustainable and transferable. My years of volunteering at Wellspring events opened my heart to receive the Father's love and given me opportunity to offer His love back to my family, domain, and Battle participants.

Over the past 12 years I have volunteered at Wellspring events as a retreat administrator, facilitator, speaker, and mentor coach. Each of those presented its own set of challenges. I found those challenges to be the very tools God used to deepen His work within my heart to open the eyes of my understanding of His purposes in my life and His work in the lives of those around me. Through my volunteer work with Wellspring I have experienced the Gospel's power to restore, renew, enlarge, and release us as men.

The changes I have experienced in this journey have given me purpose and mission far beyond anything I would have imagined for myself in earlier years. For the first time, I feel as if I am cooperating with God in His purposes for my life, He continuously invites me into new frontiers to offer back what I have been blessed to receive through Wellspring.

I think we as men want to be good leaders, good husbands, fathers, etc. Yet, that sometimes seemed such an elusive goal, so by default I reached a point and just gave up and accepted life was always going to be, one disappointment after the other. I was wrong.

For me, it took facing the brutal fact that I was mostly posing through life. If I ever wanted to find a life of significance and strength, I was going to have to face my issues and put myself in positions to experience God's unconditional love amidst my fears of inadequacy. I discovered that the Father's love was more than sufficient when I surrendered the right to run my life. I had to be willing to risk vulnerability and exposure in order to find God's favor, strength, and faithfulness.

I have experienced the wooing of God as He has invited me into His fellowship and fathered me in an incredible journey of faith, restoration, and strength. Through this experience I have

found a sense of purpose and mission that gives me deep satisfaction and joy in fulfilling my part to play. It clearly gives me a sense of relevance and significance. Participating in Wellspring's Leadership Equipping Track has offered me the ability to increase the impact I am having in the second half of my life.