

A Life-Changing Whisper

A woman named Mary Ann grew up knowing that she was different, and she hated it. She was born with a cleft palate, and when she started to school, her classmates made it clear to her how she thought she must look to others – a little girl with a misshapen lip, crooked nose, lopsided teeth, and garbled speech.

When her schoolmates would ask, “What happened to your lip?” she would tell them she had fallen and cut it on a piece of glass. Somehow it seemed more acceptable to have suffered an accident than to have been born different than others. “I was convinced that no one outside my family could love me,” she said.

There was, however, a teacher in the second grade whom all the students adored. Her name was Mrs. Leonard. She was short, round, happy, a sparkling lady by personality.

Annually, the class would have hearing tests. Mary Ann was virtually deaf in one ear, but when she had taken the test in past years, she discovered that if she did not press her hand as tightly upon her ears as she was instructed to do, she could pass the test.

Mrs. Leonard gave the test to everyone in the class, and finally it was Mary Ann’s turn.

“I knew from past years that as we stood against the door and covered one ear, the teacher sitting at her desk would whisper something and we would have to repeat it back ... things like ‘The sky is blue,’ or ‘Do you have new shoes?’

“I waited for those words which God must have put into her mouth, those seven words that changed my life. Mrs. Leonard said in her whisper, ‘I wish you were my little girl.’”

The power of love is amazing. Find someone today to share your love – in some meaningful, uplifting way. There are plenty of opportunities in our offices and in our centers.

– Beecher Hunter