

# A Privilege, A Pleasure and a Joy



Senior Pastor Keith Krell, one of our presenters, just sent me such an encouraging text regarding our *Evening of Stories* (EOS) dessert fund raiser we just completed. He indicated it was “all about excellence.” Our annual fall EOS was a great blessing, encouragement, and amazing success. God’s redemptive work in the lives of people was on glorious display in our various counseling and training ministries. A record setting 450 people came and heard the liberating message of God’s story of grace that intimately touches those we serve. We reached our corporate faith stretching goal of \$120,000! Many businesses and churches, 34 in total, also stepped up to support the Genesis mission in caring for the hundreds who annually seek our care. The Genesis board, staff, and volunteers have such a huge heart of gratitude to the Lord, for all those who helped support and financially invest in this work.

Sheila Walsh, our keynote speaker, deeply engaged our audience in powerful truth and playful humor. Sheila shared with us a direct application to real life of trusting God in the painful times and the courage to be real no matter what one experiences. We are so appreciative of her passion to bless us. She challenged us to trust God’s grace in the middle of life’s messes and brokenness as we walk by faith. Sheila’s singing expressed such power, beauty, and joy as well. It felt angelic to me personally. Each person that shared their stories, the compelling videos, and all the many people participating were simply a blessing to our Genesis team.

What I most enjoyed, outside of the many blessings from our event, was witnessing another story quietly taking place in the ballroom with another group also present. The well-dressed table servers from the Spokane Convention Center stood at rapt attention in the beautiful ballroom as they listened to our speakers. As Sheila shared her own story of deep brokenness and God’s redemption in her life on stage, the server’s eyes seldom moved from her as she spoke. They were transfixed. I glanced multiple times as they listened with such intensity, maybe for many a first time to hear such profound sorrow, combined with God’s amazing grace. It was just such a beautiful story that they could not put down, for God’s stories of redemption always draw people toward Him. Pastor Keith’s text says it all for me about the blessing we all experienced in God’s presence: “*It was a privilege, a pleasure, and a joy.*”



Warmly in Christ,

Dave

Executive Director

