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Sunday



*The Future is in
Your Hands*



Chapter One

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The Future Is In Your Hands

It all started with a little ten year old girl who put her hand up and asked her teacher, "Miss Smith, can a girl run for President of the United States?" I was horrified. Do girls still have to ask this question? I told my friends and colleagues. They were stunned too. We women think we've come so far. But have we?

Then, I started to look at the state of affairs in the US. I had just moved back from living in Europe. I discovered that some shocking things had happened.

YES, WE CAN DO BETTER

The Wall Street Journal said we have the highest high school drop out rate of any industrialized nation. I wondered, "Are our kids any less intelligent than those I've seen abroad?"

"No," I thought.

Then I looked at crime. Research showed that we had the highest crime rate per population of any country

except one. I wondered, "Why are our citizens putting up with this?" Surely this wasn't necessary either.

Then I noticed people complaining about the leadership. People seemed to be throwing up their hands and saying, "We don't like it, but what can we do about it?" It reminded me of the post communist countries I visited where people see leaders as unaccountable.

PEOPLE WANT VALUES

People in the US seemed to be saying, "We want values back in leadership!" I thought of the Colonel I interviewed in Bosnia, Colonel Julie Manta. I was really impressed with her. She was well respected. She had moved up the ladder quickly and had 350 soldiers reporting to her in 6 countries and 22 locations by the age of 39, when I interviewed her for television. She was attractive and genteel. A perfect female leader, I thought. Not the old stereotype of male power.

I had asked Julie what made her move up the ladder so quickly. What principles did she go by? What could she share with younger soldiers, male or female, who also wanted to make their mark?

STOP TOLERATING

She thought a moment. Then she said that she teaches her people this principle: "Don't lie, cheat or steal, or 'tolerate' those who do."

That's it, I thought! Don't 'tolerate' those who do. We've been tolerating too long.



VOTING WITH THEIR FEET

People have been voting with their feet on education. They are home schooling their kids in droves. 700,000 of them. Why, when we have some of the cleverest people in the world here in this country, should we have to go 'outside the system' to educate our kids? We've been 'tolerating' too long.

Colonel Manta's advice was in my mind that August evening in 1998 when the President of the United States was questioned. We had just finished taping the TV special with Colonel Manta in it. I was in Frankfurt, Germany, because that's where the American Forces Television station is based. A German colleague of mine had come to dinner and afterwards we watched television together as the President was questioned.

I remember the room there in Frankfurt. The TV was at the end of the bed, and so we sat there in order to be closer to it. There we were one American and one German, waiting as if the world's future was at stake.

Finally the broadcast started. The President's casualness in drinking his Coke or Pepsi from the can seemed odd. A European would never do that. Certainly not on television. Our country seemed so casual, almost flippant, considering the Oath was at stake.

I was embarrassed. I felt a pit in the bottom of my stomach when I heard, "It depends what 'is' is." I've voted as both a Democrat and a Republican. It wasn't the party. It was the fact that we'd let things go too far. An oath is no longer an oath. We tolerate hair splitting and pretend it's the truth.

"IT WON'T HURT ANYBODY!"

It reminded me of an incident I heard some years ago when four company directors owned a meat packing plant. They had meat that was turning rotten around the edges. They debated whether to sell it or not. If they didn't, they would lose money. Big money. 'If we sell it,' they reasoned, 'it probably won't hurt anybody anyway.' So, they sold it. Afterwards, the press reported that people died and it was traced back to those four individuals.

This is my question. When young people look around, what values do they see that they can take on?

How will they make decisions if there's never a right or wrong? How will that affect you and me?

THE KIDS CAN WAIT?

Not only crime and education, but things that happen around us every day.

My granddaughter was saving her money for weeks to buy the latest Harry Potter book. She looked at the prices on the Internet, and went to the bookstores.

Some bookstores were taking advanced orders, and promised to hold copies for one week. One bookstore took 112 orders. That's 112 kids waiting for their book. However when launch date came, the crowd that came in for books was enormous. They didn't have enough for everyone. However, they did have that stack of 112 books in the back room waiting to be picked up.

"What should we do?" they asked. They decided to go ahead and sell the ones reserved by those 112 kids. The



kids would have to wait for the reorders to come in, no matter how long it would take.

I'm glad my granddaughter was not one of those 112 kids. I'd not want to see the look on her face when she went in the next day to pick up that book she saved so hard for. I'd not want to see the look on her face of loss of faith in humanity.

Why? Because I'd like to know that her word will be her bond when she grows up, but it won't be if the role modeling she gets from adults is the lack of trust.

TAKE A STAND

Somebody has to take a stand, I believe. If you agree with me, I ask you to take a stand too. You don't have to call the White House. But you can call the equivalent of the warehouse manager to say you think he made the wrong choice, when you see these things around you.

Why? Not just because of moral values. Tell him he'll lose his customers' loyalty. That will bring it closer to home for him. Do you think my granddaughter or I or anyone we know would go back to that bookstore, had that happened to her? No, you can bet they wouldn't.

PEOPLE BECOME IMMUNE SLOWLY

So who will speak out for values? Who will call it as it is? People turned their back in Hitler's Germany. The movement grew one step at a time. It didn't happen overnight. People became immune slowly. Before long, wrongs looked like rights.

People turned their back when Communism started creeping in. People who lived many years under that regime have said to me, "Government has nothing to do with me. They'll do what they want to do. I have no control."

I'm not saying we're turning into a Nazi Germany or a Communist state, but I am saying we're going in a direction no one seems to want to go.

SEE IF THIS MAKES SENSE TO YOU

Here's my thought. See if this makes sense to you. If we turn a blind eye to everything that's wrong in our neighborhoods, don't you think it spreads like an epidemic?

If we 'tolerate' the lying, cheating and stealing that goes on immediately around us, then it becomes a standard everywhere. Those folks who promised to save 112 books for 112 kids had full intention to do so. But, when faced with a new situation, they turned. That turn caused their promise to become a lie.

They may not look at it that way. They may look at it as selling more books. But, if an action results in a lie to anyone, it is still a lie. And, they need to be told about it.

So who will speak out for values? I believe it's going to be women.

WHY WOMEN?

Why do I say I believe it's going to be women? I'll tell you why. Because women give birth. The female species fights to keep her young alive.



I believe it is the time when women see society dying. Crime is like a cancer. Low education is like a cancer. Women will not stand by and let it die.

A NATIONAL CONVERSATION

They are speaking out, and they will speak out more and more. As they speak out more, a national conversation will develop. As they speak out more, they will develop a following. Their leadership will rise.

And yes, among them a President, a head of state will emerge. It happened in England, it happened in Finland, it happened in Pakistan, it will happen here.

But the question of a woman in the White House is not the underlying question at hand for you and me at this moment. The question at hand now is what are we 'tolerating' which is killing our country now? What are we 'tolerating' which is making the streets unsafe and the schools bad? What are we 'tolerating' at home and at work that needs to be stopped?

HOW EASY IT CAN BE

In the chapters that follow, we'll show you what other women and men are doing to make things right again. How they are speaking out painlessly, to the right people and making a difference. How easy it can be. How little time it takes. How you can speak out and not have negative repercussions for yourself. How you can speak out and let the other person save face.

Yes, now is the time for all good women to come to the aid of their countries! I hope that woman is you. I hope you will join us and help our daughters do it too. Daughters at work, daughters at home, daughters in

the community. It's a new suffragette movement, but this time to save a nation, maybe a world.

As I say in my radio and TV programs, "You have the power within you to influence your world around you." Here's how. Go do it.

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