**Heard**

When I heard my daughter humming a happy tune, I knew that all was right in her little world. And when I would hear the idling of 18-wheelers and air brakes going off in my son's room...I knew he was perfectly at peace with his trucks lined up across the floor. There's just no better sound to a parent than hearing our children happily playing nearby.

Well, there is a story in the Bible about a woman named Hagar who audibly heard, “Where have you come from and where are you going?” These were two well-timed questions asked centuries ago by the Angel of the LORD of Hagar, a handmaiden who found herself alone in the wilderness with her son. Unfortunately, she did not hear her son happily playing nearby because they had run out of water. Hagar's son was crying and near death. Read what happens next in Genesis 21:17-20,

17God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid;God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. 18Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”

19Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

20God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. 21While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

So on the contrary, how hard is it to hear our children cry and have no ability to provide for their needs? Be comforted to know that "God heard the boy crying" and that He made the provision. Many times as a single mom, I grieved over the pain my children were going through. But "God heard" their cries. It wasn't a "well of water" but that was not their need. Instead it was a "well of emotional support". He made the provision of comfort through their grandparents that provided rich emotional support. Today, know that God heard Hagar's son, He heard my children and He hears yours too!

If we have not met, I want you to know that I walked into this church 24 years ago with a 5 year old daughter and a 2 month old son in tow. This church embraced me but bigger than that the gospel and what God did in my life changed this ordinary girl forever! And I know He will do the same for you! He will! Enjoy church, the SPF ministry and this SPF newsletter. Allow yourself to get excited about what God has in store for you and your children.

See you Sunday!
**Holly Crain**
Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org
713-957-7674