Sara’s comments on the third draft, 4/14:

I don’t see a lot of changes from the second draft. Please make what changes and edits you can from previous and new comments, but otherwise we don’t have time for a lot more changes at this point. I’m also looking for:

--Status update on the criminal records in this case

--Inclusion of relevant stats on domestic violence

--Add in the story template info, such as heds & deks, etc. (see bottom of document)

Draft 3

LySaundra Campbell sends a video message to her twelve year old self. Her Bible, with its worn pages and neon pink and blue highlighted scripture, is open on her lap as her hands rest on the bold printed words.

“You don’t understand much everything you’re going through,” she says, chuckling softly. “You are going to go through even more stuff in the next ten years but keep pushing through and keeping reading that scripture, especially James 1:2-3. And keep praying, ” she says as the camera comes to a stop.

Campbell, now 22, easily recalls that smart, shy twelve-year-old girl. She remembers how much she enjoyed playing the violin at her first orchestra concert and how big her daddy’s smile was after she bounded off the stage.

Among all the happy memories, Campbell can still grasp the sound of her mother’s cries from down the hall late at night. Somehow, she knew that her father was the cause of the pain.

“ My brother and I would hear them late at night when we were supposed to be sleeping,” she says. “In the morning we would go into her room and just give her a hug; it’s all a little kids knows to do.”

Campbell says she spent much of her childhood building walls against the hurt that her father, Nathan, instilled when he abused her mother. Now as a 22-year-old senior at Mizzou, she says she and God are working on tearing them down.

“I don’t think I understood grace until I was 20,” she says. Once I did, I realized it didn’t matter what happened; I could come back from anything.”

In 1999, after several violent disputes between her parents, Campbell’s mother Sandra, moved Campbell, her sister and her brother to Sandra’s home state of Virginia. Campbell says all she understood at the time was that her mother had split up their family.

Sandra and Nathan, a police officer at the Kansas City Police Department, stayed together ~~decided to make things work for their family~~, but Sandra says Nathan never stopped hitting her.

“I’d come to work with my eyes red from crying or staying up late,” she says. “People at work knew and said, ‘You’ve got to do something about it.’ ” Where does she work?

Then, in April of 2002, after several fights, Sandra took her children to her brother and sister-in laws’ was this in KC? when did they move back? where her husband arrived a few days later and demanded she go home with him. She says she heard him come through the door as she was doing laundry in the basement and says she could hear in the tone of her husband’s voice that something was wrong. When he came into view, she saw that he had shotgun.

“I came to the top of the stairs and he said, ‘Bitch, you’re gonna die tonight,’” she says.

From a bedroom upstairs, Campbell, age 12, called the police to their home, a few blocks away, where Nathan held Sandra hostage. She says the irony of making a call on her own father, who at the time aspired to regain a job with the police force, still strikes her today.

“He taught me as a little kid that if something goes wrong, you call the cops,” she says.

Sandra says the twelve hours of the hostage incident felt like days. During this time, Sandra says she tried to console Nathan, telling him that they should both survive for their children.

“I had a feeling I was going to die, like he told me,” Sandra says. “Whatever he wanted to hear, I told him.”

She says that at about 3 or 4 a.m., Nathan complied with police and he and Sandra safely left the house. Nathan was arrested what’s the status of the records? and Sandra and the children stayed one night at a local shelter. They soon moved into the Page Point Apartments, a housing development for other victims of abuse.

Thinking back on that experience, Campbell only remembers feeling scared, and then angry.

“Initially, I had the deepest hate for him you could have for somebody,” she says. “I didn’t want anything to do with him.”

She remembers receiving a birthday card from her father in September 2002 for her twelfth birthday, but says she did not speak to him until November. Then, on December 27, she received the news that her father had hanged himself in jail when did this happen relative to the trial?. In the days that followed, mixed messages from relatives continued.

“I didn’t feel guilt, but people kept saying, ‘This isn’t your fault.’ It made me think, “Wait, is it my fault?”

Although Campbell went on to be a successful and motivated student, she says she continued to erect barriers against her emotions, citing the youth conference in Atlanta as the first time since 2002 she let tears fall about anything involving her father.

At the time, Campbell thought of church as a weekly required activity, but it wasn’t until getting involved with Christian groups on campus that she began to accept faith as a positive thing in her life. She says she thinks she had difficulty seeing God as a father figure when her own father had left her with so much sorrow.

“I saw (God) as this big, majestic being that could strike you down at any moment,” she says. “Now it makes sense with how I was raised. I saw the domineering God and not the trusting God,” she says.

Elyse Cagle, LySaundra’s mentor and friend through Impact, says she credits the growth LySaundra has made through God to the fact that she can allow herself to have a voice for other victims of abuse.

“I think she has grown into who she is,” Cagle says. “She now knows a little bit more of who she is as a daughter of God, as a child of God. She has a better sense of who she is.”

When people ask her what it means to work with other victims of abuse, Campbell often refers to a conversation with a young girl at True North.

The girl told her she thought it was O.K. for boys to tease her because her “daddy hurt her mommy.”

Is this the end of the story?

NOTE TO EDITORS: Until Hilary adds her updated draft, please see her previous draft in the “second draft” folder. Thanks.

Having Faith story template - feel free to cut and paste from your current draft if it’s easier...

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**Assigned word count: 500-600 vs. ACW**:

**Single word that sums up this story (use a noun):**

**Print Hed & Dek (give at least 3):**

**Web Hed & Dek (give 1)**:

**Story Links:** (at least 3 that could be embedded into story on website)

**Suggested Tweet**:

**Suggested Facebook post**:

**Suggested Web Excerpt**: (25-35 words)

**Best version of lede**:

**Body of the story**:

**Sidebar or Info Box if needed**:

**Sources**: Make sure you include their Facebook pages, Twitter handles, websites etc. in addition to phone and email. Include when, where and how you interviewed the person. (By phone, email, in person; at the office, home, etc.)

**Documents as Sources**: (links or copies of data, reports, records; must include statistical support for your story)

**Media Support**: (news articles on your general topic)