

# NEWS FROM ANNA

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## *Beautiful Wisconsin – Nature's Wonderland*

Oh, it is good to be home!! Last weekend my husband and I played host to two wonderful guest speakers for our church. The woman (one from Maine and the other from New York) were invited to deliver a lecture on the theme “But I Am Just One Person...”

I'd like to share with you a story they told as part of their talk. An emperor realized that it was time to name his successor. But instead of choosing one of his sons or a member of his court, he decided to go a different way. He called all the children of his kingdom together and told them that in one year one of them would be named his successor. In the meantime he was giving them a seed to plant and nurture during that year. After a year they would bring their plants to court and he would name his successor.

One boy named Ling took his seed home and told his mother the story. She helped him find a pot, plant the seed and water it. Three weeks passed and nothing. A month passed and Ling began to hear his friends talking about the green shoot that was growing in their pot while he still had nothing. Three months passed; six months – nothing. On the anniversary Ling took his pot of dirt and trudged to the court.

All the other children arrived with flowering plants and trees. They laughed at him and Ling tried to stay in the background hoping the emperor would not notice. The emperor walked around looking at all the beautiful plants and complimenting the children. Then he saw Ling.

“What is your name?” he asked.

“I am Ling.”

The emperor led Ling to the front of the hall. “This is Ling,” he announced. “Behold your new emperor.”

There was a general mutter of disapproval in the crowd but the emperor held up his hand for silence. “One year ago, I gave each of you a seed to plant. What I did not tell you is that the seeds had all been boiled and would not grow. The rest of you quickly substituted a live seed thinking I would not know. Only Ling had the patience and honesty to continue to try and nourish the seed he was given. And only Ling had the courage to come here today even though he thought he had failed.”

One person can make a difference. One person with the courage and patience and honesty to look at a situation and come up with some action that might change things can change a family or a neighborhood or a community. Perhaps you know such a person? Perhaps you are such a person?

**OOPS!**

My bad! I mistakenly referenced the Bible verses regarding 'seasons' in THE PASTOR TAKES A WIFE as coming from Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Do NOT know how I missed that one in all the editing but I did! Of course, the passage comes from the book of Ecclesiastes and I want to thank those observant readers who noted the mistake and alerted me to it!!

**NEW CONTEST: DON'T FORGET TO CHECK IT  
OUT!!!**

*<http://www.booksbyanna.com/contest.html>*

*That's it for this month – I do hope you'll take a moment to think about how one simple act – at work, in your neighborhood, at home – might change things for the better. And if you do, please do write and tell me about it!!!*