

## ***The Domino Effect*** - By Jodi Kozan

Have you ever built a city of dominoes? Lining them up one by one, spending hours on end creating a masterpiece on the kitchen floor? With one flick of a finger, the cause and effect principle is witnessed right before your eyes. A classic childhood game reiterating the message that our lives are much like The Domino Effect: our convictions, words, and our actions not only affect our own lives, but also the lives of countless others we encounter on the journey.



An example of this in my own life was when I drove to Calgary a few summers ago with 4 adventurous women from the Journey of Faith team. The goal was to inspire them that weekend both personally and organizationally. Off we went to the Saddledome with over 7000 women from across western Canada, and the various speakers, musicians and comedians. We laughed until we cried, and we cried because it hurt. All in all, it was a 'good day at the office' in terms of women's conferences!

Rather than hopping in my van Sunday morning to rush back to Saskatoon, I encouraged the group to take a stroll with me to a nearby park. Imagine with me if you will: hundreds of hanging flower baskets and a beautiful water display creating a serene environment to centre oneself. As we walked about the park, our plan to journal was brilliantly interrupted as we came across an artistic display of history that will be forever encased in my mind. Encompassed in a circle were 5 bronze statues of women towering above us. Their presence was breathtaking. As I walked among the statues of women I noticed some were holding teacups, appearing to be celebrating. One that stood out above the rest was the woman who held up a scroll with great confidence. This note of victory declared that women were "persons" on October 18, 1929. These statues represented The Famous Five who were instrumental in the Persons Case on April 24, 1928. *Persons?* It ran through my body like a jolt of lightening. Had I somehow forgotten the historical fact that suffrage was just a blink in time away? *To not be considered a person?*

***"And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free."*** John 8:32

Although the US, my country of origin, has a similar story with Susan B Anthony's famous speech in 1873, "We are Persons" , I would like to honor the 5 women who committed their lives for the advancement of freedom and equality right here in Canada:

Judge Emily Murphy 1868-1933  
Henrietta Muir Edwards 1849-1931  
Louise McKinney, MLA 1868-1931  
Hon. Irene Parlby, MLA 1868-1965  
Nellie McClung, MLA 1873-1951

In learning about this historic movement, what struck me about these women is that they

worked together much like a set of dominoes. *There was strategy in their alignment for the final outcome.* They were uniquely gifted, unified in their purpose, diligent in their mission, and submitted to authority by obeying the law at hand.

The definition of “personhood” was challenged by Emily Murphy as she sought to run for senate. She was turned down because of the fact that she wasn’t a legal person, but she could petition the Government of Canada if there were 5 in agreement to lobby with her. Thus, these five women gathered for tea parties upon Emily’s invite and the rest is history.

In the book of Genesis, chapter 1 verse 27 it says: **“So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them.”** Equality was at the core of our existence from the beginning of time. Why had it taken so long to walk in this truth? Yet sadly, there are millions who are not free as they continue to be viewed as subjects or property to control. The domino effect in their situation is based on lies and the aftermath is destructive to say the least.

In the Luke account in the New Testament of the Bible, in chapter 19 verse 10, it reads: **“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.”** Not only was our relationship with God broken when sin entered the world, thus making all mankind “lost”, but our original intent became skewed. Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost. Our original intent is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Trusting in Him who is the truth, we can receive and impart our original intent reversing historical damage based on lies and replacing it with the truth.

The Famous Five acted on the truth that all are created equal, giving women the same opportunities presented to their male counterparts. It is one thing to learn the truth, another to accept the truth, but most importantly we need to appropriate it in our lives. The Famous Five and the decision of the Privy Council in the Persons Case improved the lives of millions of women throughout the British Empire.

Reflecting on the Domino Effect...and The Famous Five, whose lives are you affecting by your actions, your words, and your convictions? What are they based on? With truth as our guide, our domino effect can alter history for the better. The possibilities are endless.

**“Jesus said to him, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me.”** John 14:6

Scripture taken from the Amplified Bible

Other sources:

The Famous Five Foundation <http://www.famous5.ca/>