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Mrs America says Me Too!

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Heather Thompson Day
EDITOR

Millennials are known for a lot of things. We are the most diverse generation, the most educated, we are the least Republican generation, and we are also the generation to kill the cereal company. We want things fast. No time for milk and a bowl. Give me a straw and an avocado. We want passion over paychecks and a mission we can get behind. We crave authenticity and yet we hide behind filters.

For me, *Envision* isn't just a magazine. It's a reflection of the conversations of young adults in our culture. It's the soapbox for a generation that is disappearing from our church pews and slipping through the cracks of Christian education. I don't just think this generation needs church, I think the church needs them.

Within these pages my prayer is to create a safe space for young adults to have an honest conversation. I want them to be fully engaged in telling the truth about what they *Envision* for their churches, communities, and work places.

When I took on the role of editor for *Envision*, I did so under the premise that I couldn't combat the drear statistics flooding our newsfeeds today. I can't change all the things I don't like about our culture but I can add my voice to it. I can provide pieces of paper littered with the thoughts, concerns, and stories that matter so much to so many of us in this moment.

Did you know that 1 in 4 women on today's college campuses experience rape? Forty-two percent of women who are raped, tell no one about the assaults because, hello victim-blaming. Sixty percent of rapes on college campuses are perpetrated by someone the

victim knows. So not only are women experiencing sobering rates of victimization (#metoo), for the most part, it isn't monsters in the alley holding knives to our throats, these are people we know, perhaps even friends that we trusted. These are the worst kinds of monsters, wolves in sheep's clothing.

Brock Turner was the Stanford swimmer who sexually assaulted a girl he found unconscious. He was interrupted by two graduate students who saw him attacking a partially clothed woman behind a trash bin. His victim wrote him a letter. She said, "I stood there examining my body beneath the stream of water and decided, I don't want my body anymore. I was terrified of it...I wanted to take off my body like a jacket and leave it at the hospital with everything else."

Brock got 6 months. His dad said his son's life shouldn't be ruined for "20 minutes of action."

In 2014, *The Economist* reported that the student loan debt exceeded 1.2 trillion. Millennials are the most educated generation in history, but they are also paying for it. Over 7 million of us are in loan default. The average person has over \$37,000 in personal student loan debt. In 2003, that number was only \$18,000. Millennials are working more for less.

I have a daughter. I want to raise her to be strong, and smart, and to fight against systems that create imbalanced gender and racial power dynamics. But the reality is, that for the first time since 2006, gender equality is moving backward rather than forward in matters of the workplace, education, politics, and healthcare.

Today, two-thirds of minority students are still attending schools that are predominantly segregated. These schools are of course funded well below the neighboring suburban districts.

The trajectory is bleak, but while our kids are the future leaders, we're the leaders now.

If any generation can be tasked with saving health care, dismantling rape culture, and stabilizing power systems, it's this one. Our parents told us we could be anything we wanted, and most of us just want to be moral and good.

An evangelist was once asked how he managed to fill the churches of England. His response was simple: "I set myself on fire, and people come to watch me burn."

Young people are matchsticks. As you read the words scattered on these pages, my prayer is that you will join us as we burn.

That's what I *Envision*.