

Mary's Song



Newsletter

FALL 2025



She Shines

"They looked at Him and were

Radiant,

and their faces will never be ashamed".

PSALMS 34:5

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PASTOR PARRIS BAILEY



What a wonderful year of God giving us precious girls that need the love of God and the hope of the Gospel!

The ministry of Jesus was a burst of light that pierced the darkness of that age.

His words brought revelation light to all that believed. His words delivered those who had been held captive by the darkness of this world: the blind suddenly could see, the lame could walk, the lepers were cleansed, and even those bound by the spirit of darkness were liberated. The words from His mouth were like the dawning sun of a brand new day; the light had come and the world could never be the same.

This describes daily life at Mary's Song. Without the girls even realizing it, the light of Christ would hit them when they walked through the doors, and darkness and hopelessness would leave. The testimonies have been unreal, miraculous, and hard to put into words. There is not a day that goes by that we don't witness something breaking off of these girls. From when they read their Bibles and find answers, or hear a word from the sermon at church that brings healing, we have the privilege of watching their lives grow from a stump into a beautiful tree that's planted by the rivers of God.

"To give light to them that sit in darkness" Luke 1:79



Celebrating 17 years at Mary's Song

Thank you for the past 17 years. Your prayers, your gifts, and picking up the girls for doctor's appointments and lunches are so appreciated.

They will all graduate soon, and have the privilege of moving into our apartments. We then help them with jobs and continue to mentor them into their next phase of life. There is nothing like community!



Spurgeon describes our frame of mind without Christ. "The gloom is thick and dense; not sun, nor moon, nor star appeareth, and there can be no light to illumine the understanding, the affections, the conscience. Man has no power to get light. He may strike the damp match of reason, but it will not yield him a clear flame. Rise, morning star! Come, Jesus, come! Thou art the sun of righteousness, and healing is beneath thy wings. Without Christ there is no light of true spiritual knowledge, no light of true spiritual enjoyment, no light in which the brightness of truth can be seen, or the warmth of fellowship proved."

We, the staff at Mary's Song, thank you for believing in us, for what we do everyday, every minute, and every year for any girl that walks into our door!

PASTOR RACHEL YOUNG

06



I love this scripture! It contains the very words that God spoke to my heart to bring me from darkness and shame and into His marvelous light! On Wednesday December 7, 2011, I was dropped off at Victory Church after spending 30 days in jail for drug charges. I had heard about Mary's Song from a lady doing prison ministry in the jail where I was incarcerated and she arranged for me to be picked up and dropped off the evening of my release. It was the first time I had stepped into a church building for something other than a funeral or wedding in over 20 years! As the service started, I remember sitting in the pew feeling a whirlwind of emotions. Honestly, I was overwhelmingly thankful to be out of jail, but I was also completely out of my element. I had spent the greater part of 25 years in addiction and bondage to my sinful desires.

Now here I was, sitting in the pews of Victory Church on a wildly wonderful Holy Ghost Wednesday night! As worship began, I watched in awe and wonderment as a vibrant elderly woman twirled like a child in abandoned praise and worship at the altar. Somehow, I was caught up in her dance and thought to myself, "I have no idea what that is but I want it! I want to be free like that!" Then, I saw the Mary's Song girls dancing and clapping and praising God. Obviously, they too had been addicts like me, why else would they be in Mary's Song, but there they were, rejoicing and dancing and having fun! And in church!!! What was going on?! I was so confused but intrigued! And the strangest thing of all, as I sat and watched and tried to take everything in, I somehow felt deep inside at the core of my being, "I am home."



*"Those who look to Him
are radiant; their faces
are never covered with
shame." Psalm 34:4-5*

“God said, ”“I love you. I was there the whole time. I saw everything you did and I forgive you.”



Four days later, Sunday morning service came, and I walked up and gave my heart to the Lord. But later that week, the doubting and condemning thoughts began to come. My past began to collide with the present and all the shameful things I had done began to cloud my heart and mind. I began to question how a person like me could ever truly be a Christian. I felt as if I was too dark to truly be saved and forgiven. And then it happened! As I read Psalm 34:4-5, “I sought the Lord and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.” As soon as those words pierced my heart, my eyes were opened and I saw God, the Creator of the universe and my Father, look down at me from heaven and put His loving hand under my chin and lift my downcast face up to gaze into His loving and forgiving and powerful eyes and He said, “I love you.

I was there the whole time. I saw everything you did and I forgive you. Look at me and let your face shine with my love.” And I crumbled. My heart broke in two with love and I began to weep. For the first time in my life, I felt loved, forgiven, and accepted! Not long after I was baptized in His Holy Spirit and I began to laugh! It has been almost 14 years since that day and I haven’t stopped!

What joy there is in knowing that God chose a girl like me to be His daughter and loved me back to life! This is Who He is and this is what He does! This is redemption! This is Mary’s Song! Thank you for faithfully standing with us for 17 amazing years and being part of the Lord’s great and glorious work of loving His daughters back to life!

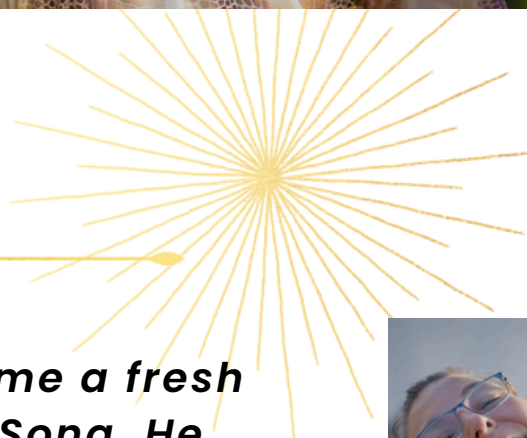
She Shines

08

JAMIE



To some, it may seem as though my life is littered with failures. To Jesus and I, my life has been filled with discipleship. The word tells us "though the righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked stumble when one disaster comes." – Proverbs 24:16. I am no longer the donkey written about in Psalm 32:9, that needs a bit and bridle to go the right way. God has given me a fresh start at Mary's Song. He has planted me as an oak of righteousness, though the wind and rain may come, the roots grow down deep.



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Much like rain cleansing the air, God's forgiveness has cleansed my soul. He has washed away my sin and my guilt and brought forth renewal and a sound mind. I no longer deprive myself in order to meet the needs of others. Now I walk closely by my good shepherd's side so that I can hear him speak and follow him. God has blessed me, and I am a doer of his word.

SAVANA

“ —

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it - not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it-they will be blessed in what they do". James 1:22-25



NORAH

I selfishly tried to escape from reality by masking my feelings, which only led to more loss and pain. Not only for myself but for the people I love the most. The Lord has imparted into my spirit a supernatural strength and courage. Through Jesus Christ, I am now able to face life with tenacity like never before. Through reading His word and by His Spirit I have a Holy Helper to equip me with all that I need to live a successful Christian life. I now fully know that apart from God I can do nothing so I choose to take up my cross daily and follow Him. I am learning my identity by who He says I am. I am a new creation in Christ.

After being at Mary's Song for less than a month, I received a grief healing that had debilitated me my whole life. The undeniable power of God was felt throughout my entire being, and I received a peace that surpasses all understanding. I am an overcomer of the broken heart that held me in bondage to addiction.

Before I had a relationship with Jesus, I could not fathom living a sober-minded life without my children. I attempted secular recovery with no avail due to the lack of power in the name of Jesus. Being in an environment that drowns out the noises of the world, I was able to hear the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. The washing of the word began to untie false beliefs. The spirit of suicide no longer oppresses me for the living word of the Almighty God has demolished its stronghold over me. My God-sized hole has been filled with joy unspeakable. Now, I stand on scripture like Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."





"But now, thus says ADONAI-- the One who created you, O Jacob, the One who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are Mine.'" - Isaiah 43:1 (TLV)

I am accepted by the beloved. I am healed and whole in Christ Jesus, and I am redeemed. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me. I have been chosen, set apart, and saved by grace. Most importantly, I am forgiven, and she who is forgiven much, loves much. Now I look forward to fulfilling the purpose He has called me for. Thank you, Jesus. I'm thankful that my God is the God of restoration and that His word never returns void. I'm so blessed to be rooted in the community of Mary's Song Restoration Center for Women under the amazing leadership to help steward and shepherd my spiritual growth as a disciple of Christ. God bless you all.

12 ALLISON

We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance. All of my life, I have struggled with a profound hearing loss bilaterally due to Rubella. This inability to be able to hear as well as most people my age while growing up was no easy task! Growing up with wearing bilateral hearing aids became second nature.



And endurance produces character: As I struggled in school to focus, etc. I also became an overachiever in many areas of my life. I studied hard, worked hard and became a people pleaser. I thought I had conquered how to deal with a profound hearing loss until suddenly I had emergency brain surgery.

I had a stroke which then led me to lose all communication skills. I had to relearn how to talk, write, text and work on memory skills, etc.

Character produces hope: God and His angels were with me that day- February 7th, 2025. He told me to call the ambulance as I cried out to help from Him. He reassured me that He was with me!

On arrival to the ER, I was rushed to emergency brain surgery. The Neurosurgeon said that if I had gone back to sleep that day, I would have died in my sleep.



And hope does not put us to shame: Although God saved my life, the recovery process was very painful. It took a lot of GRIT, prayer, love and grace to pull myself through! The medical professionals said I wouldn't get my speech back for 6 months. I spoke my first words within 3 days! After the stroke, I struggled with some helplessness and anxiety about my future. I had lost everything. My FMLA ran out; therefore, I lost my job, my insurance, retirement, etc. My progress back home was very slow! Through lots of prayers, etc. I was led to Mary's Song! Now I can speak, communicate, memorize scripture, write reports, etc.

God has helped me in the areas I struggled in and helped me to find a community to live in while I am healing and growing up. I can engage and communicate again, memorize scripture, pray, speak scripture, etc. While the enemy tried to use my hearing and communication skills against me, God has been faithful in restoring my ability to speak, hear, pray, sing, all for His glory! All because of God's love, which has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Thank you staff at Mary's Song for all you do.



"We can rejoice too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts. - Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

The joy of the Lord is my strength. It's not rocket science to know that life is hard. Things happen, the world grasps at our hearts, people offend people, and sin crouches in our hidden places. But God! I was known as a joyful kid growing up, waking up early in the morning to play, to be in the light. Obviously, life happened. My heart wandered, and my mind played tricks on me.



Then, He showed up. He has, and continues to take me from glory to glory. I am running through valleys and leaping over mountains with my lover. He has traded my ashes for beauty and my morning for dancing.



I'm a child again. I'm free again, and I'll be his until there is no energy left in my body to breathe. I have found my purpose, and it is to kiss my lover all my days. How can I not be full of joy and expectation?

*"I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are your works, And that my soul knows very well.
- Psalm 139:14*





THANK YOU, SPONSORS!



A massive thank you to Jersey Mike's for partnering with Mary's Song this whole past March! Their incredible fundraiser blessed us with a check of **\$8,703.61**!

Another amazing partner was Kendra Scott who was so generous to donate 20% of her May 3-4 sales in support of Mary's Song, which amounted in **\$392.98**!

Thanks to the generosity of JERSEY MIKE'S, Kendra Scott and EVERYONE who supported these fundraisers. This enables us to keep providing free housing and restoration program for the women pursuing recovery. We are grateful and your impact makes a huge difference!

Big thanks to NOLA Girls Club! Their March fundraiser raised **\$2,800** for Mary's Song, fueling our mission to bring hope and healing. The event was filled with joy, love, and community spirit. We're grateful to everyone who attended, donated, and supported—together, we're making a real difference!



FENTANYL AWARENESS COMMERCIAL

Mary's Song participated in a Powerful Fentanyl Awareness Special on WGNO and WNOL to raise awareness about fentanyl and its devastating impact on our community.



Easter 2025

Mary's Song got to serve for Easter Service, and what a beautiful moment it was. We are so thankful for Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection — the reason we celebrate.



Mary's Song at Feed the Multitudes

On July 4th, our Mary's Song students joined Victory Church's Feed the Multitudes, serving meals, desserts, groceries, and more to hundreds in need. It was a day overflowing with joy, worship, prayer, baptisms, and hope—and our girls were blessed to be the hands and feet of Jesus through service.



Destin, FL Trip

Our Mary's Song girls enjoyed a refreshing trip to Destin! Laughter, bonding, and peaceful moments by the ocean reminded us that healing also comes through rest, joy, and fellowship.



Visit to Waldon Healthcare Center

The girls got to bring hugs, smiles, and encouragement to the seniors. It was a beautiful day of sharing Christ's love, reminding each person they are valued, and filling the room with joy and hope.

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