

REFLECTIONS ON *"Blessing"*

by Rachel Pruett, Women's Ministry Director

Thank you for praying for our Greece trip. It was such an incredible experience, and I could talk for hours telling you story after story of what God did. My main prayer was that we would bear fruit with the women in Greece through this trip, but I had no idea some of that fruit would be what God did in my heart. I may be sharing stories for quite some time, so please indulge me....

We served at a rescue home for women who have been sex trafficked. Our days were spent teaching the Bible, doing art therapy, and building relationships with these young women. Each of these women have impacted my life. You can't help but be inspired by these strong women who are struggling to rebuild their lives after encountering such evil that we can't even imagine. One such woman was Blessing. Blessing is a believer with a beautiful voice, and so I asked her to sing something for me. She sang a praise song with a chorus that repeated, "You are great, You are great," multiple times, but in order to know the impact that song had on my heart, you need to know her story.

Blessing and her husband lived in a village in Nigeria. One day Boko Haram attacked their village, so the women fled to the bush to hide. Unfortunately, Blessing was found by the terrorists and raped by multiple members of Boko Haram. As if this was not tragic enough, she was 4 months pregnant with their first child and lost her baby as a result. Later she and her husband moved to Turkey to find safety but instead found that as refugees it was not a safe place for them to live either. They left Turkey in a refugee boat headed for Greece. She was 6 months pregnant when they left Turkey, and their boat capsized in the Aegean Sea, where she almost drowned before being rescued. Her journey had been treacherous, and life had dealt her some very cruel blows, and yet here she sat, holding her new baby girl named "Gold" and singing about how great God is.

As I listened to her sing I was amazed....amazed that instead of bitterness she was singing praises. And I also was convicted....convicted on so many levels. We tend to think that we are so spiritually mature because we have so much head knowledge. We've got correct doctrine, sound theology, and all kinds of equipping, so somehow that makes us feel superior. But at that moment when Blessing was singing, I saw a faith and a maturity that I don't think I can even touch. I realized that she was the teacher, and I was the student. She had walked through the depths of tragedy and sorrow and had come through it all praising the Lord. God had forged a faith in her soul that was born out of having to trust God in the midst of pain, a faith that is learned by life, not by books. And then I thought of how incredibly spoiled we are and how we tend to respond when God doesn't "perform" in our lives the way we want Him to. At the first sign of not getting what we want, we doubt His love for us because we tend to evaluate His goodness based upon the "goodies" that He does or doesn't give to us. Self pity rears its ugly head as we wonder why God provided something for someone else that He did not provide for us. Often, we can become bitter or resentful when life doesn't turn out the way we wanted. And yet here was Blessing, who had been so cruelly mistreated by life, singing praises to God.

So convicting. So powerful. So humbling.



Bringing Bible stories to life, Anna Melvin gets the privilege to teach God's Word to the women of the Damaris House.



It's all hands on deck during teaching time. Carrie Powell takes a turn babysitting so that the mamas can concentrate.



AS TEACHERS, WE ADMITTED TO EACH OTHER THAT WE WERE STRUGGLING WITH THE IDEA OF ROLLING IN AND STARTING TO DROP THE FULL WEIGHT OF SCRIPTURE ON STRANGERS HEALING FROM CIRCUMSTANCES WE KNEW LITTLE ABOUT. WE HAD NOT EARNED A VOICE, WE HAD NO PRIOR RELATIONSHIP WITH THESE GIRLS FOR THEM TO KNOW OR TRUST WHAT WE SHARED. IT WAS A HARD TASK TO WALK INTO. BUT EACH DAY, WE PRESSED ON—STORYTELLING OUR WAY THROUGH THE WORD ALONG WITH SHARING TESTIMONIES FROM OUR OWN PASTS AND HOW GOD USED OUR CIRCUMSTANCES TIME AND AGAIN TO DRAW US TO HIMSELF. NONE OF US HAD BEEN TRAFFICKED, BUT WE ALL SHARED OUR PAST HURTS AND PAINS AND GOD USED IT TO BUILD A BRIDGE BETWEEN US. BY THE FOURTH DAY OF SHARING, I NOTICED A VISIBLE SHIFT IN THE GIRLS. I COULD OBSERVE THEM LISTENING MORE ACTIVELY. THEY BEGAN TO ASK A FEW QUESTIONS. THEY HAD WARMED UP TO US IN OUR ART THERAPY TIME. THEY WERE US. I COULD SEE GOD'S WORD IMPACTING THEIR HEARTS.

—ANNA MELVIN

OUR TEAM HAD WORKED FERVENTLY LEADING UP TO THIS TRIP BY PUTTING TOGETHER 10 STORIES OF THE BIBLE FROM CREATION TO SALVATION. WE USED THE SYMBOL OF THE BUTTERFLY THROUGHOUT OUR PROJECTS AND AS WE SPOKE OF NEW CREATION AND A LIFE WELL SERVED IN JESUS CHRIST. WE ALSO DID A NUMBER OF CRAFTS, THAT WAS NOT JUST TO FILL TIME, BUT EQUIPPING THEM WITH A SKILL TO BE ABLE TO CREATE AND SELL IN THE MARKETS. OUR TEAM ALSO HAD UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE OUR PERSONAL STORIES, WHICH IN TURN, ALLOWED THESE LADIES TO OPEN UP AS WELL. THE STORIES THEY TOLD OF BEING TRAFFICKED OUT OF THEIR HOMETOWNS INTO TURKEY WERE HEART WRENCHING AND HEROIC.

—CARRIE POWELL



DO YOU KNOW YOU CAN GO?

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY JUNE 4, THE ANNEX #106

Upcoming Women's Mission Trips

Nicaragua *IN OCTOBER*

Brazil *IN NOVEMBER*

WOMEN.DENTONBIBLE.ORG

WOMEN'S MISSIONS *Uganda*

Greetings from Rose

Rose is a twenty-four year old who loves the Lord. She is single and would like to get married but has many questions about finding a true believer—one she can trust.

She wrote us a farewell letter in which she expressed greeting to the ladies of DBC. She says, “ Send my love and greetings to the young women like me, tell them to keep the faith and run the race as we wait for the coming of Christ, tell them to love God with all their hearts, mind and soul, remind them that they should not be shaken by the things of this world which are perishing or fading away. Greet your home church and let them know we are praying for them.”

Your sister in Christ,

Rose



UGANDA MISSION TRIP

by Linda Clark

I would like to share a few photos to give you a better picture of what we do on short-term mission trips.

Break out sessions where the women discussed topics like forgiveness, how to live well single or married and how to submit to their husbands even when they are not taking the leadership role.

Lynn sharing that we can look good on the outside but God sees the sin that we try to hide on the inside.



Cheryl teaching on our relationships with one another- how to be a true friend and how forgive those who has hurt us.



Linda taught on Living Well Single or Married which means our real identity is in Christ whether we are single or married.



WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING *Program*

The Women's Discipleship Training Program (WDTP) is an academically challenging and application oriented 9-month program designed to facilitate God's transforming work in women's hearts as they learn to prefer His thoughts and His ways over their own.

Through in-depth Bible study, personal discipleship, small group accountability and community, service in the local church, and a study of the meta-narrative of scripture, the WDTP will help women grow in their knowledge of God's character and His redemptive work while developing the lifelong pursuit of discipleship, growing closer to Christ, and leading others to know Him and love Him more.

by *Mackenzie Ripple*



This past year I have been so blessed to be apart of the Women's Discipleship Training Program at Denton Bible Church, not only did I get to make some new sweet friends and sit under incredible teaching and leadership BUT it made me fall more in love with my Savior. It taught me about His faithfulness from Genesis to Revelation; He is faithful to fulfill His promises, He is a good God, loving Father, and faithful friend who loved me far beyond what I could ever deserve and in His grace shows me His faithfulness everyday. If you would love to be challenged, meet some of the wisest and most genuine women I know, and most importantly fall deeply in love with our Savior, you should think about doing program! It's incredible. These pictures were taken by Leya D Photography and just know program is so fun they welcome you as you are. Goofiness and all.

by *Ann Wickersham*

The Women's Program has been so fulfilling and rich that I cannot imagine not doing it! All of the excuses that I gave myself in the beginning pale in comparison to the rewarding time I have experienced studying God's word and building a community with other younger believers. It may sound cliché but God really does multiply time when I spend time with Him. I was afraid that my family would suffer but it has given us an opportunity to rally together. They have definitely benefited from the growth that I have experienced as well as the new relationships in my life. My teenage girls have enjoyed editing my papers for a change and helping me come up with creative ideas. I am grateful we had the opportunity to walk through this together. It is not just a program for young women, but also for the young at heart.



BECOME A PART OF THE PROGRAM.

Now accepting applications for the 2017-2018 year. Find out more details at <http://dentonbible.org/wdpt> and/or contact Jean Klughart at wntp@dentonbible.org or 940-300-3234

OBSERVATION PLUS INTERPRETATION WITHOUT APPLICATION EQUALS ABORTION. THAT IS, EVERY TIME YOU OBSERVE AND INTERPRET BUT FAIL TO APPLY, YOU PERFORM AN ABORTION ON THE SCRIPTURES IN TERMS OF THEIR PURPOSE. THE BIBLE WAS NOT WRITTEN TO SATISFY YOUR CURIOSITY; IT WAS WRITTEN TO TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE. THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF BIBLE STUDY, THEN, IS NOT TO DO SOMETHING TO THE BIBLE, BUT TO ALLOW THE BIBLE TO DO SOMETHING TO YOU, SO TRUTH BECOMES TANGENT TO LIFE.
—HOWARD HENDRICKS, LIVING BY THE BOOK

REFRESH YOUR SPIRIT IN OUR SUMMER *Bible Studies*

Ladies of Denton Bible Church...and beyond! We welcome you to some new Bible studies for the upcoming summer that will help you to stay in God's Word and also give you opportunity to fellowship, learn and pray together with other women. We will have three different studies from which to choose, two of which will be offered on Tuesday nights and again on Wednesday mornings. Please note that the Tuesday night studies will be in the SMC and the Wednesday morning studies will be in the Main Building.

And Mamas, please know that there will definitely be a place for your children as well so that while you are studying the Word with other women, your children will be in the CLC learning more about Jesus with other children. They will be loved on while you are in your study! All that your Bible study leader will need from you will be the names and ages of any children you wish to have participate with you and your leader will send that information on to Gail Wells.

Here are the various studies from which to choose:

TUESDAY NIGHTS – FROM 7:00-8:30 PM

- ❑ “When God Doesn't Fix It”
May 30 - June 27, led by Diane Reed and located in the SMC room 105
- ❑ A Precepts Overview of the Book of Titus called, “Walking in Power, Love and Discipline”
June 7 - June 28, led by Becky Johnson and located in the SMC room 114

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS – FROM 9:30-11:30 AM

- ❑ “When God Doesn't Fix It”
May 31 - June 28 - led by Diane Reed and located in the Starting Point of the Main Building
- ❑ A Precepts Overview of the Book of Titus called, “Walking in Power, Love and Discipline”
June 7 - June 28 - led by Becky Johnson and located in the Fellowship Hall of the Main Building
- ❑ “Her Name Is Woman”
May 31-July 5- led by Deb Squiers and located in room 213 of the CLC in the Main Building

In order to sign up for one of the studies on The City, please take these steps:

1. *Search “women's bible studies summer 2017” in the upper right search bar.
2. *Click the blue “show all groups” text link.
3. *Request to join the class of your choice.
4. *Or you can use the “Find a group” option on The City apps (iOs and Android)

Each of these studies has a separate City page and all the info you will need for each one (materials, locations, code to the building etc.) will be listed there. It will also be the place where you can interact with the other women in your study throughout the course of your time together.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me, Becky Johnson, at bjohnson@dentonbible.org and I will get you plugged in!

Please come and join us as we delve into the Word of God and grow together in love and knowledge of our Savior and Redeemer! We can't wait to see you there!