

2016 Issue

# multiply!™

Restoring hope. Transforming lives.



## New Name, Same Freedom

*Learn how our outreach programs and resources  
are multiplying Mercy around the world!*

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*Making an  
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*The Mercy  
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## About Mercy

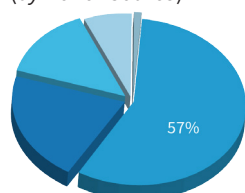
Mercy Multiplied is a nonprofit Christian organization that helps young women break free from life-controlling behaviors and situations, including **eating disorders, self-harm, drug and alcohol addictions, unplanned pregnancy, depression, sexual abuse, and sex trafficking**. We hope to help every woman we serve experience God's unconditional love, forgiveness, and life-transforming power.

Mercy's residential program is voluntary, biblically based, and completely **free of charge** to young women ages 13-28. Our goal is to help residents permanently stop destructive cycles, discover purpose for their lives, and become productive and thriving individuals. Our outreach programs and resources are based on the same biblically based, life-transforming principles used by Mercy homes.

Mercy Multiplied operated under the name Mercy Ministries until October 2015, when we changed our name to reflect our expanded outreach initiatives and commitment to "multiplying" Mercy outside of our residential homes.

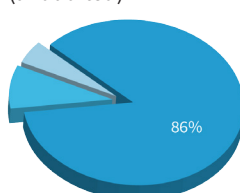
## 2015 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

**2015 Year-End Total Receipts**  
(by Donor Source)



- Individuals—57%
- DAFs\*/Foundations—21%
- Churches/Ministries—14%
- Businesses—7%
- Other—1%

**2015 Functional Expenses\*\***  
(unaudited)



- Program—86%
- Management & General—9%
- Fundraising—5%

\* Donor Advised Funds: Because Mercy Multiplied does not routinely apply for grants, the majority of gifts from foundations are initiated by private individuals who support the ministry and have chosen to give through a donor advised fund or family foundation.

\*\* For a complete financial report, send your request to [info@mercymultiplied.com](mailto:info@mercymultiplied.com).

Mercy Multiplied consistently exceeds industry standards for financial accountability, fundraising and board governance, as shown by its membership in ECFA. For more information about ECFA, including accreditation and a listing of ECFA-accredited members, visit [www.ecfa.org](http://www.ecfa.org).

In 2015, we achieved our seventh consecutive four-star rating from Charity Navigator for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency. Only 2% of charities rated have received seven consecutive four-star ratings. Mercy Multiplied also completed Charity Navigator's inaugural Results Reporting Dimension, receiving favorable responses in each of the five elements. To view our full Charity Navigator rating and ECFA membership, visit [MercyMultiplied.com](http://MercyMultiplied.com).



## 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mercy Multiplied operates under the governance of a national board of directors that actively oversees the ministry and its endeavors.

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*Multiply!*™

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Mercy Multiplied is a 501(c)(3) public charity which seeks to operate under the highest standards of financial accountability and excellence. All charitable donations to Mercy Multiplied are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law within the United States. We are audited by an independent accounting firm each year and governed by a Board of Directors.

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# A Message from the heart OF OUR FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT



## 2016: A NEW SEASON OF MULTIPLICATION

Dear Friends and Supporters,

What an exciting year we had in 2015! Just this time last year, I wrote to you about a season of multiplication and expansion in Mercy's work. Whoa! We certainly saw that come to pass!

In the pages that follow, you will read about many of these exciting events, but I want to mention just a few of them here. God has led us to new avenues where we can reach so many others through the development of outreach programs and resources. We launched a brand-new website, created a new series of teaching videos, revamped our weekly podcasts, developed a formal outreach department, hosted our first-ever Freedom Experience, and published the Ditch the Baggage Series. All of these developments are designed to make the biblical principles of freedom we teach the girls in our homes available to all.

Of course, we will always be committed to reaching young women in our homes free of charge with the love of Christ and the same message of freedom. There is nothing as awesome as watching hurting girls enter our homes hopeless and broken only to leave months later totally transformed! Early in 2015, we launched an easy-to-use Intake website ([www.MercyIntake.com](http://www.MercyIntake.com)) so young women can apply to Mercy online, from anywhere, at any time, on any device with an internet connection, including a cell phone. This site not only makes it faster and more convenient for girls to apply, but it also allows them to access help and stay connected to us throughout the entire application process. This online process has resulted in a huge jump in applications and calls for help.

To better reflect our work, as of September 2015, we officially changed our name to Mercy Multiplied. I can tell you that I truly am more excited NOW than in all 33 years of Mercy! And, trust me, there have been a lot of exciting years in the past. I fully believe we've entered a whole new season of out-of-the-box thinking, outreach opportunities, and creative ways to reach people with our core message... **freedom is possible!** So I encourage you to visit our new website, attend a Freedom Experience, download our podcasts, and check out our Ditch the Baggage Series. Stay connected to Mercy in every way you can, because you don't want to miss out!!

With great anticipation,

A blue ink signature of Nancy Alcorn, consisting of a stylized 'N' and 'A' followed by a large loop.

**Nancy Alcorn**

*Founder and President of Mercy Multiplied*

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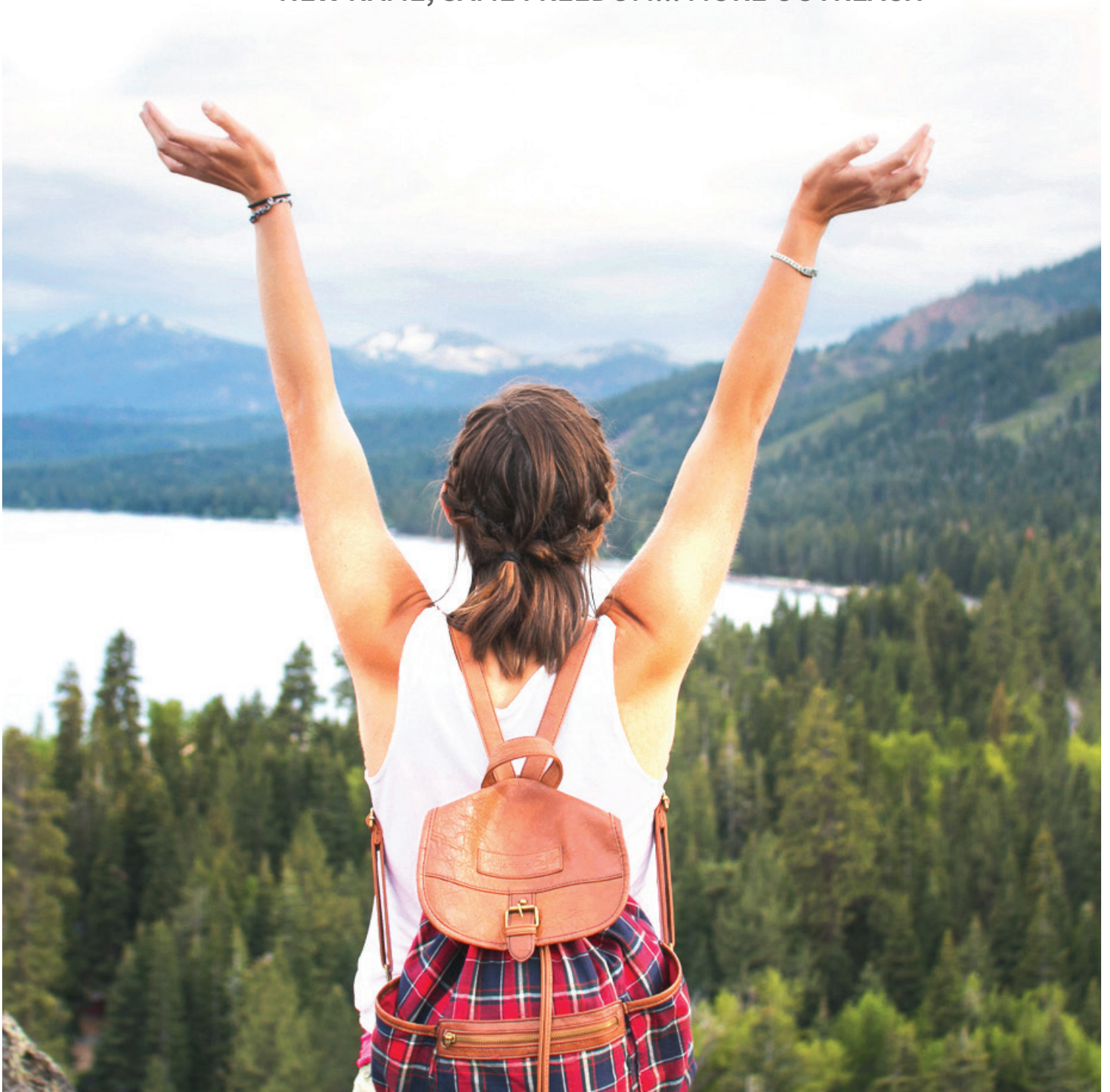
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MERCY

# *multiplied!*

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NEW NAME, SAME FREEDOM... MORE OUTREACH



To learn more, watch our video at [MercyMultiplied.com/HistoryVideo](https://MercyMultiplied.com/HistoryVideo) or visit [MercyMultiplied.com/Outreach](https://MercyMultiplied.com/Outreach).



**A**fter more than three decades of transforming young women's lives as "Mercy Ministries," we experienced our own transformation last year – changing our name to "Mercy Multiplied" and expanding our mission to "multiply" Mercy outside of our homes.

Along with a new logo and look, Mercy introduced new programs and resources to help hurting girls overcome life-controlling issues:

- **The Freedom Experience**

**(MercyMultiplied.com/FreedomExperience):** A powerful, two-day event designed to help participants redefine their lives and release the destructive thoughts, feelings, and habits that are blocking them from living life as it's supposed to be lived in Christ.

- **MPower Workshops**

**(MercyMultiplied.com/MPower):** Two-day workshops that explain life-controlling issues, their root causes and related behaviors, and how to help others who are struggling.

- **Ditch the Baggage Series**

**(MercyMultiplied.com/DitchtheBaggage):** This practical series features a book, study (for individual or group use), and videos that teach a biblical model for lasting freedom. Resources can be used separately or in conjunction with each other.

These programs and resources are based on the same biblically based keys to freedom used in our residential program and can be applied just as successfully to everyday challenges, such as nagging insecurities, a traumatic memory, or unhealthy habits. We firmly believe that anyone, regardless of what they've gone through, can gain the tools and perspective necessary to permanently stop destructive cycles, find lasting freedom, and go on to help others.

The response to Mercy's growth has been tremendous! Hundreds of people attended our first-ever Freedom Experience held in October 2015, and we've distributed thousands of our newly released Ditch the Baggage resources to date. While this growth is exciting, our core mission remains the same. Mercy homes, and the freedom in Christ that so many hurting girls ages 13-28 find there every year, will always be at the heart of what we do.

**We all have pain. We all have fear. We all have problems. But we don't all have freedom in Christ! I believe God is calling us to expand our outreach efforts so we can help more people be free.**

**-Nancy Alcorn**



**THEN (1997):** Mercy residents by our old sign (Nashville)



**NOW (2015):** Residents and staff by our new sign (Nashville)

## Helpful RESOURCES

Available **FREE** online at [MercyMultiplied.com](http://MercyMultiplied.com)



### "Mercy For" Books

[www.MercyMultiplied.com/FreeBook](http://www.MercyMultiplied.com/FreeBook)

Downloadable books address self-harm, eating disorders, sexual abuse, and addictions. Each book includes real-life stories of Mercy graduates, practical advice, and spiritual insight. Available in English and Spanish.



### Freedom Tools

[www.MercyMultiplied.com/FreedomTools](http://www.MercyMultiplied.com/FreedomTools)

Weekly Scriptural Confessions, "In Him" Realities, and other helpful resources are available on our website to help you walk in freedom daily.



### MercyTalk Podcasts

[www.MercyTalk.org](http://www.MercyTalk.org)

These podcasts address today's tough topics with straight talk based on biblical wisdom and real-life experience helping people find freedom from life-controlling issues.

# Making an ..... **IMPACT**

Mercy graduates healed, restored, and empowered to serve.



## **MONICA** 2005 Graduate with her son, Samuel

I was 13 the first time I used drugs. I was struggling with my identity, and my choices ultimately rendered me a “bad girl.” I believed it and hated myself. Throughout my youth I struggled with anger and felt incredibly unloved. At 17, my father committed suicide after struggling with an addiction for many years. I rapidly headed down a path of destruction. I never doubted that God was real, but I doubted my significance to Him. My drug addiction worsened. After seven years of hardcore drug use, I finally hit rock bottom. I prayed for death, crying out, “God! If you want me to live, you have to do it, because I can’t.” God led me to Mercy.

While applying to Mercy, I learned I was pregnant. It was a huge shock, but I realized I had something to live for, other than myself. My time at Mercy was a time of healing. I remember how hard the pain of facing my past was. To my surprise, God was gentle with me. I don’t think I’ve ever been more at peace than when I lived in the Mercy home with 40 other girls. It’s been ten years since I graduated from Mercy. Much has happened since then, and life is rich. My time at Mercy was just the beginning – it gave me the tools and foundation I needed to navigate the ongoing challenges and temptations that life brings. I’ve not done everything perfectly. Thankfully, I don’t have to be perfect, because He is. My struggles have fostered empathy, which allows me to love all kinds of people.

Today I am the Digital Marketing Director of an incredible company. Samuel, my son, and I have a blessed life and continue to be the recipients of God’s favor and grace.

We recently found the man that gets to join this life with us, and he and I were married in November 2015. We’ve seen many miracles over the years – He always provides – He never leaves us.

Watch Monica tell her story at [www.MercyMultiplied.com/Videos](http://www.MercyMultiplied.com/Videos).



## **KAYLEE** 2013 Graduate

I came to Mercy after a four-year battle with an eating disorder. I grew closer to God, realizing that He truly has the best for me. Only He can set the captives free! God has opened many doors for me to love and serve since graduating from Mercy: First, during a trip to Tanzania, and then, during a one-year program working in inner-city Chicago. In the midst of injustice, God has allowed me to fall in love with His people and experience community and true joy. Life is not perfect, but I’m learning to surrender to Him and His plan. He is continuing to show me what is truly important in life – not how much I weigh or exercise or what others think of me, but rather, loving Him and the people He places in front of me!



A circular portrait of a young woman with blonde hair in a high ponytail, wearing a red hoodie and a necklace, smiling in front of a red double-decker bus.

## JULIA

2009 Graduate

I came to Mercy not believing I could truly be free from the addictions and eating disorder I was battling. I spent years in and out of hospitals and treatment centers, completely depressed, hopeless, and suicidal. God did an absolute MIRACLE in my life. My heart and mind were healed of the pain from sexual and physical abuse, abandonment, rejection, and self-hatred. Today I am six years free from every addiction and life-controlling bondage! I've spent the last three and half years working on staff at my church and the last year working on a degree in Biblical Counseling. I've had the incredible honor of sharing God's Word and my personal testimony at different churches and conferences. But my absolute favorite Kingdom work is meeting the amazing young ladies that God has allowed me to help on their own journeys of freedom and healing.

A circular group photo of a diverse group of young people, mostly Black, smiling and posing together.

## TAYLOR

2013 Graduate

I entered Mercy lost and extremely broken after finding out I was five months pregnant. I was exhausted – physically, mentally, and emotionally – from running and searching for things to fill the void of my dad's death. At Mercy I was drenched in God's love and encountered Jesus at a whole new level. I left Mercy and began the journey of parenting my beautiful son and attending college. God has picked up the pieces of every dream that I shattered. This past summer I was given the opportunity to serve the people of Zambia. Despite language barriers and cultural differences, I helped mend broken hearts through sharing my story of loss, struggle, and restoration. When you partner with God, He partners with you. It's by experiencing love, grace, and compassion at Mercy that I am now able to display that to others.

A circular portrait of a young woman with long brown hair, wearing a purple top and a black and white patterned scarf, smiling in front of a scenic mountain landscape.

## KRISTIN

2006 Graduate

For nearly twelve years I battled with an eating disorder that doctors did not expect me to survive. I felt so far away from God. I desperately wanted to feel beautiful and thought I had to be perfect in order to receive love. Two years after I found the book *Mercy for Eating Disorders* by Nancy Alcorn, I was finally ready to find healing and applied to Mercy. God's love restored and healed my mind and heart. I felt joy for the first time and began to enjoy life again. After graduating from Mercy, I went on to obtain a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. God has provided the opportunity for me to counsel other people who feel the pain and emptiness that I once felt. I am beyond grateful for Mercy and the new life I received while there!

A circular photo of a man and a woman smiling together. The man is wearing a red basketball jersey with "BB" on it and a race bib with the number "2634". The woman is wearing a blue t-shirt.

## LAUREN

1997 Graduate with her son, Caleb

My first semester of college I was drawn to the wrong kind of friends, smoking marijuana heavily and attending every party I could. I found out I was pregnant and needed to change my environment in order to prepare for my future. I attended Mercy in 1997 and gave birth to my son, Caleb. The blessings that were prayed over my son, his father, and me on my last day at Mercy have come to fruition in every aspect of our lives. After graduating from the program, I returned home and married my son's father. We now have two beautiful children! Caleb is a freshman at Baylor University majoring in biochemistry on an academic and track scholarship! He's the most determined and intelligent individual I have ever met. I believe Caleb will one day share publicly about all God has done for him.

# Counselor's CORNER

## Healing Life's Hurts

**We deal with past hurts in one of two ways: through coping mechanisms that create more pain, or through intentional choices that lead to healing and wholeness.**



Author **Jen Otero** is Mercy's Outreach Ambassador and Resource Development Specialist. She holds a master's degree in Professional Counseling and has counseled in various capacities for over 15 years.

Everyone experiences pain in life. Unfortunately, we don't always know what to do with these hurts when they occur. They can leave us "limping" through life. Have you ever noticed someone who walks with a physical limp? It's hard to disguise. So are the "limps" in our hearts! They are

difficult to hide, and they eventually expose themselves in one way or another – often, in how we treat others and what we believe about ourselves. They also become target areas for the enemy, who loves to zero in on the weak and broken areas of our lives.

The good news? As children of God, we can overcome the hurts that we've acquired due to difficult experiences. We can't avoid pain in this life, but healing and the ability to walk confidently with strength – free from our limps – is possible. Jesus promises us: "...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (NIV, John 10:10).

### How Do We Heal Life's Hurts?

The process of healing life's hurts begins by prayerfully inviting Jesus into our pain. When we give Him access to the big and little hurts of our lives, it allows Him to heal us from the inside out. This process includes asking Him for His perspective on the memory and the wounding that came with the difficult experience. Healing life's hurts may also include a time of forgiveness, renewing our mind with the truth of Scripture, and surrender.

Receiving the truth that Jesus has for you regarding the hurts in your past is powerful. He knows the beginning from the end and sees a much fuller picture of our painful experiences than we can. That's why it's so important to ask the Lord questions in prayer and listen for His response, which may come in the form of a still, small voice, or a picture in your mind. It's a good idea to have some paper and a pen to write down the things that the Lord shows you during your prayer time. At Mercy, we often encourage people to start with a prayer similar to this:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to come boldly before Your throne of grace in my time of need. I take authority over my time with You in the name of Jesus and thank you in advance for speaking to me about the areas in which I carry a hurt. I trust You and invite You into this time with me. Please open my spiritual ears to receive from You and quiet any doubt or unbelief that may try to come in. I ask You to do a full work in my heart and in any hurts in my life in the name of Jesus. Thank you, Lord. Amen."



## Processing Your Hurt

Below are questions that you can ask the Lord as you process through your hurt in prayer. Remember that this is a two-way conversation, so be sure to leave space for His reply after you ask the question. He is so faithful to communicate with us – especially when we're in need of Him!

- Lord, what hurtful memory do You want to address today?
- What do You want me to know about this memory, Father?
- How did this memory affect me?
- Lord, was there a lie(s) that I believed about You or about myself during this time or as a result of this hurt?
- What is Your truth that You want me to accept in place of this lie? If so, pray this prayer: "Lord, I choose to break agreement with the lie \_\_\_\_\_ and I choose to receive the truth that \_\_\_\_\_."
- Lord, how do You see me? What do You want me to know about myself?
- Is there anything else You would like me to know or see about this memory, Father? Anything else you want me to break or release to You? If so, pray this prayer: "I release this memory to You, Lord, and I ask that You heal me to the root of this memory and hurt."

While it's important for you to seek the Lord on your own about the hurts in your past, sometimes the need for additional support may arise. We encourage you to recognize when you need more assistance and to seek out professional help in your healing when necessary.

Jesus is the healer of our hearts, and He works with such care and compassion! Hebrews 4:14-16 reminds us: "Now that we know what we have – Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God – let's not let it slip through our fingers. We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all – all but the sin. So let's walk right up to Him and get what He is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help" (MSG).

Jesus understands the hurt that life can bring and is extending an invitation to meet you right where you are, heal your heart, and stand you up tall and confident – free of limps!

**Note:** *Healing Life's Hurts* is one of the seven "Keys to Freedom" discussed in our *Ditch the Baggage Series*, which includes a book, study, and teaching videos. Learn more at [www.MercyMultiplied.com/DitchtheBaggage](http://www.MercyMultiplied.com/DitchtheBaggage).



## Sponsor a Girl

LIKE JOANNA

MY WORST DAYS TODAY ARE BETTER  
THAN MY BEST DAYS BEFORE **MERCY.**

*Today...*

I AM SAFE FROM ABUSE AND **FREE.**

I AM LOVED, ACCEPTED AND **FREE.**

I AM A NEW CREATION AND **FREE.**

When you sponsor a girl at Mercy Multiplied, you help provide valuable financial support for her room and board, counseling, life-skills training and spiritual growth. Most importantly, you make an eternal difference in her sense of self-worth. Will you help a girl who feels worthless realize the priceless treasure she is in the eyes of God?

[MercyMultiplied.com/SponsorAGirl](http://MercyMultiplied.com/SponsorAGirl)





Many attendees publicly committed or recommitted their lives to Christ.

“I’ve never been to a Christian conference that has this level of potential to change lives.”

– Pam P. (Champaign, Illinois)

# THE freedom

## EXPERIENCE

**H**undreds of people traveled from around the world to attend our Freedom Experience on Oct. 2-3 at Christ Church in Nashville. The Freedom Experience is an interactive, two-day event that teaches biblically based tools to overcome unhealthy thoughts and behaviors – whether big or small – that fuel destructive cycles and prevent true freedom in Christ. Our October event was a huge success, and we were thrilled to see God work in so many miraculous ways! More Freedom Experiences have been planned throughout the United States in 2016. Visit [www.MercyMultiplied.com/FreedomExperience](http://www.MercyMultiplied.com/FreedomExperience) for dates and locations.



Ellie Holcomb led worship on Saturday.



Jen Otero, Mercy's Outreach Ambassador and Resource Development Specialist, spoke on "Healing Life's Hurts."



Nancy Alcorn, Mercy's Founder and President, encouraged, "Whether it's an everyday bad habit or a life-controlling issue – you were born to live free by God's grace!"



Cheryl Washington and Lanae Davis at The Freedom Experience



Point of Grace and Michael Passons took the stage on Friday night.



"Our desire is for everyone, of every age, to experience true and lasting freedom," said Melanie Wise, Mercy's Director of Outreach.



# DITCH *the* BAGGAGE SERIES



*"Ditch the Baggage has helped more than any counseling or treatment I've ever had!"*

– Alison, Chicago

## YOUR PAST DOES NOT DEFINE YOU!

Our **Ditch the Baggage Series** teaches a biblical model for lasting freedom from life-sapping thoughts and behaviors that may be blocking you from living life as it's supposed to be lived in Christ. For some people, freedom means walking away from a terrible memory or experience. For others, freedom means getting "unstuck" from nagging fears or insecurities. Whatever issues you have faced or are facing, this series can help you ditch your baggage and redefine your life!

Resources can be used separately or in conjunction with one another:

**BOOK:** Available at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com), Barnes and Noble, and Christian booksellers nationwide

- Introduces 7 keys to lasting freedom, the same biblical principles used for decades with thousands of hurting girls in Mercy homes: committing fully to Christ, choosing to forgive, renewing the mind, breaking generational patterns, healing life's hurts, conquering oppression, and learning principles of lifelong success

**STUDY:** Available at [www.MercyMultiplied.com/DitchtheBaggage](http://www.MercyMultiplied.com/DitchtheBaggage)

- Explores the 7 Keys to lasting freedom, with steps for personal application
- Features daily assignments, reflection questions, and journal pages
- Leader's Guide includes suggested questions and notes, plus training and tips for leading others

**VIDEOS:** Available at [www.MercyMultiplied.com/DitchtheBaggage](http://www.MercyMultiplied.com/DitchtheBaggage)

- 8 videos available for download; each featuring Nancy Alcorn
- Inspiring stories and testimonies illustrate each key



# Events

FROM TO COAST  
TO COAST



Nashville Mercy residents and Francesca Battistelli celebrated the chart-topping success of her song "He Knows My Name."



Mercy supporters competed in our first annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament in Sacramento, CA.



Men of Mercy 3-on-3 Tournament Champions in Sacramento, CA



Camillia (2011 Mercy graduate), Nancy, and Heather (2013 Mercy graduate) at the Seeds of Greatness "White Party" in Delaware



Guests posed with Santa at the Mercy Wonderland event in CA.



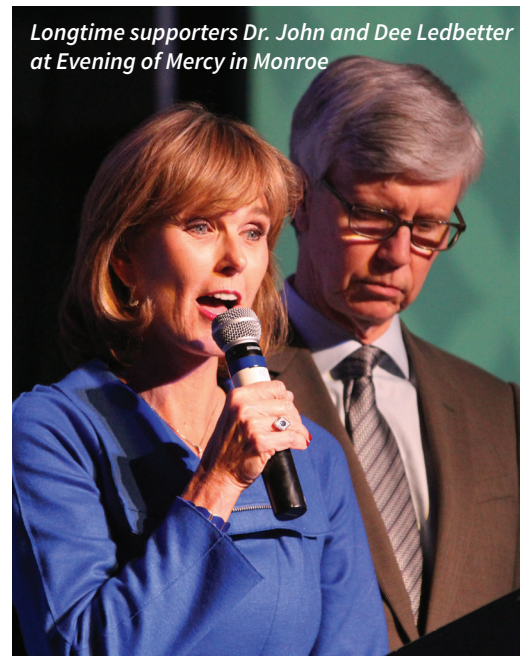
The Sacramento Mercy home was decked out in Christmas decor for Mercy Wonderland.



Donor Debbie Massie and House Manager Serenity Ramirez at Mercy Wonderland in California



Nancy joined Eric Metaxas on his radio show to discuss her new book, Ditch the Baggage.



Longtime supporters Dr. John and Dee Ledbetter at Evening of Mercy in Monroe



Miss Kay Robertson of Duck Dynasty and Nancy at Evening of Mercy in Monroe



Grammy Award Winning Christian artist Laura Story at Evening of Mercy in Monroe





Nashville's annual Golf Challenge winners



Golfers lined up for our Golf Challenge in Nashville



National Board Member Lisa Lewis and Pastor Jerome Lewis with members of Seeds of Greatness at Merry Mercy Nashville



Nancy and Priscilla Shirer at a taping of her show, The Chat



Renowned artist Anne Neilson and philanthropist Dru Hammer



Grammy Award Nominee and Dove Award Winner Nicole C. Mullen at Merry Mercy Nashville



(Left to right) Anne Ferrell Tata; Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales with his wife, Rebecca; Merry Mercy Chairs Lisa and Ken Abraham; Denise and George Shinn



Mercy graduates Casey (left) and Emily shared their testimonies at Merry Mercy Nashville.

RUN FOR MERCY IS COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU IN 2016!  
RunForMercy.com



Atlanta, GA • March 13, 2016



Sacramento, CA • March 19, 2016



Nashville, TN • April 2, 2016



St. Louis, MO • August 27, 2016





*Nancy Alcorn with honored guest Joyce Meyer*



*Natalie Grant,  
Dove Award  
Winning Artist*



*St. Louis Mercy graduate Rachael  
flew from Israel to attend.*



*St. Louis Mercy graduates*



*Dave and Joyce Meyer with David Meyer*



*Nancy and Natalie Grant with  
Jeff Fisher, head coach of the  
St. Louis Rams and longtime  
Mercy supporter*

On November 5th, 2015, we celebrated the ten-year anniversary of our St. Louis home with over 500 supporters and 50 Mercy St. Louis graduates at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac. Special guests included Dave and Joyce Meyer, Nancy Alcorn, Natalie Grant, Jeff Fisher, Mary Hudson, Scott and Michelle Luecal, and State Senator Kyle McCarter and his wife Victoria. We at Mercy remain incredibly grateful to Joyce Meyer Ministries for purchasing and renovating our St. Louis home, which has provided a safe haven free of charge to hundreds of hurting young women since 2005, and for Dave and Joyce Meyer's significant ongoing support. We thank them, and all our donors, for making a way for young women to have their hope restored and their lives transformed – and consequently to transform their families, their communities, and the world at large.



# THE MERCY DIFFERENCE

..... We're not about treatment. We're about transformation.

**H**ave you ever tried to help someone overcome a life-controlling issue? If so, you know it's natural to focus on whatever actions we see that are causing them harm. For example, if a loved one has an eating disorder, we might monitor their food input. Unfortunately, this is a superficial approach. Behavior modification does nothing to relieve a person's desires to engage in those actions. True healing is not just a matter of **what** someone is doing, but **why** they are doing it.

The vast majority of girls who enter Mercy's residential program have tried secular treatment, often multiple times, and never with lasting results. Again and again, we hear from them how many of these secular programs focus heavily on behavior modification and coping methods, while overlooking heart issues. Yet when emotional wounds are left untouched or only partially resolved, people will continue to resort to the destructive, yet familiar, behaviors that block their pain.

At Mercy, we deal with the deep-seated, root causes of life-controlling behaviors, not just the symptoms. We know from over three decades' worth of experience that drug abuse, unplanned pregnancy, self-harm, and eating disorders are outward manifestations of inward problems such as shame, self-hate, fear, insecurity, guilt, unforgiveness, and unresolved pain



from the past. Many young women have been severely wounded because of incest, rape, physical abuse, and other tragic experiences stemming from difficult childhoods. In order for these women to have happy and productive lives, it is **imperative** for them to deal with these past hurts, be relieved of guilt and shame, and understand that their life has value and purpose. **This can only happen through a personal experience of the love and forgiveness of God.**

Only God can heal the brokenhearted. Only God can forgive sins. Only God can cause lasting heart change. Our job is to point every girl that comes to Mercy to Him. Whatever their presenting issues, the solution starts with a personal relationship with Jesus. We show them that their identity is in Him, and Him alone. Secular programs may label them for life, but God's truth says they are new creations (2 Cor. 5:17), with the capacity to choose freedom over whatever holds them captive.

Counseling, accountability, boundaries, life-skills training, and educational opportunities are effective tools in the healing process, and we include them in our program. But they are only **tools**. Christ is the **answer**. And He makes all the difference... at Mercy and in life.

**If you or someone you love is struggling with a life-controlling issue, visit [www.MercyMultiplied.com](http://www.MercyMultiplied.com) to learn more. We accept applications online at [www.MercyIntake.com](http://www.MercyIntake.com).**

How will you be the **me** in mercy?

**attend**

*our Benefits, Luncheons, 5K Races, MPower Workshops, The Freedom Experience*  
[MercyMultiplied.com/Attend](http://MercyMultiplied.com/Attend)

**give**

*to Mercy360, Sponsor A Girl, Planned Giving, Non-Cash Donations*  
[MercyMultiplied.com/Give](http://MercyMultiplied.com/Give)

**pray**

*for Mercy staff, residents, graduates*  
[MercyMultiplied.com/Pray](http://MercyMultiplied.com/Pray)

**volunteer**

*at Mercy Events, Homes or Corporate Headquarters; Internships*  
[MercyMultiplied.com/Volunteer](http://MercyMultiplied.com/Volunteer)