

2021 Issue | Mercy Multiplied

multiply!™

Restoring Hope. Transforming Lives.



MERCY NEWS

Your trusted source to remind you of all the positive ways God continued to work in 2020

Mercy Multiplied Center for Wellness And Counseling Opens



"What if we could serve women earlier in their challenges and avoid crisis points?"

Keys To Freedom Around The World



"...Keys to Freedom has now been translated into Spanish, Dutch, German, Swedish, and Danish. We know of at least 21 countries where the study is being used to equip people with the keys for living in freedom..."

Making Mercy Possible

"We are thankful to God for impressing Mercy on the hearts of thousands of people around the world to give generously to the ministry."

Mercy Graduates: Lives Changed



"The healing I received at Mercy enabled me to establish a life based on the unshakable truth of God's Word."

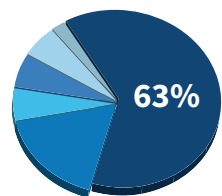


About Mercy

Mercy Multiplied exists to provide opportunities for all to experience God's unconditional love, forgiveness, and life-transforming power. Mercy's residential counseling program is voluntary, biblically-based, and helps young women ages 13–32 break free from life controlling issues and situations, including anxiety, depression, sexual abuse, eating disorders, self-harm, addictions, unplanned pregnancy, and sex trafficking. These residential services are offered free-of-charge. In September of 2020, Mercy Multiplied launched its first Mercy Multiplied Center for Wellness and Counseling in Monroe/West Monroe, LA offering free-of-charge outpatient counseling to women aged 13 and older. Our Outreach Services train and resource men and women to effectively support and minister to those who are hurting and struggling through workshops, videos, podcasts, discipleship teaching, and other practical resources.

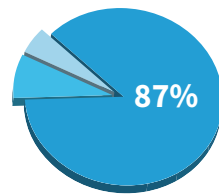
2020 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2020 Year-End Total Receipts (by Donor Source)



- Individuals—63%
- DAFs*/Foundations—17%
- Churches—6%
- Businesses—6%
- Ministries—6%
- Other—2%

2020 Functional Expenses** (unaudited)



- Program—87%
- Management & General—8%
- 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.



Mercy Multiplied consistently exceeds industry standards for financial accountability, fundraising and board governance, as shown by its membership in ECFA. In 2020, we achieved GuideStar's Platinum Seal of Transparency, attained the highest rating (4-Stars) on Charity Navigator, and were recognized by Great NonProfits as a top-rated nonprofit. To view our full ratings visit MercyMultiplied.com/Governance.

2021 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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A Message from the heart OF OUR FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT



2021: MULTIPLYING MERCY

Dear Mercy Friend,

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) I know 2020 has been a year where many people's faith has been challenged. Some of you may even be questioning, "Why God?" Many people have lost loved ones, their jobs, businesses, and are feeling hopeless. Hope is defined as a feeling of trust and I want to remind you that there is always hope in Jesus Christ. Isaiah 40:31 says, "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." I want to remind you not to give up hope and lose your trust in God, but instead, renew your faith and your mind by going deeper into the Word of God.

While this past year was full of challenges, it was also full of many blessings here at Mercy. We continued to see Christ heal the hearts of young women in our residential programs. In addition, we launched the first Mercy Center for Wellness and Counseling in Monroe/West Monroe, Louisiana. You will read more about that in the coming pages.

We had more people attend our MPower Workshops than ever before due to us moving it to a virtual setting. Not only did we have participants from 27 states, but we also had international attendees from Canada, India, Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica! Our *Keys to Freedom* study is helping people around the world find freedom in Christ. It has been translated into five different languages and we know of at least 21 countries where *Keys to Freedom* groups are being held. We are also looking at additional ways to distribute our *Keys to Freedom* study so more men and women of all ages around the world can walk in freedom!

There is a great need for our services now, more than ever. Mental health issues are on the rise due to the past year we have experienced. People who have never battled depression or anxiety before are having symptoms. Suicide rates are up, domestic abuse is on the rise, alcoholism and pornography addiction is widespread. People need to know that there is still hope and that it is found in Jesus Christ. He is the one who brings healing, transformation, and peace.

With expansion and growth of our Outreach Services and outpatient programs, as well as the continued support through our residential programs, we look forward to seeing God multiply the number of people we will reach this year so more people can find freedom in Christ!

Plans are still in the works for a new residential home in the panhandle of Florida. We are so excited to see all that God is going to do through this home in an area where human trafficking is a growing problem. Our fundraising efforts will continue as we look to God's timing.

I want to thank you for standing with Mercy and supporting us with your prayers and your finances. We promise to continue to steward your gifts well. I am so excited for all that God is going to do through Mercy this next year. We are ready to answer the call and together we can help more people find freedom and healing in Christ.

With great anticipation,

Nancy Alcorn

Founder and President of Mercy Multiplied

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MY COUNSELING JOURNEY

By Nancy Alcorn

There's no doubt in my mind that the decision to go to counseling was one of the best decisions I ever made in my life. I will admit that it wasn't exactly my idea, but I am so thankful to have a friend who recognized I needed help and encouraged me to get it.

I was the middle child of seven. When my little sister, Beverly, was just three years old, she was crushed in my father's lap after a tragic accident that happened on the farm where I grew up. From that day forward, I could always see sadness in my dad's eyes because he blamed himself for what had happened.

My dad was a hard worker (I got a lot of my work ethic from him), but I didn't really see him much because he worked multiple jobs to support our family. And even when he was physically with us, it never felt like he was actually with us because of the grief that he still carried. In 2001, my dad developed pneumonia and passed away in three days. My heart broke for him because I knew he had never gotten over the death of his daughter. And the grief I experienced when he died wasn't necessarily because I missed what my dad and I had, but more because of what we never had.

Three weeks after my dad's funeral, I was scheduled to go to the Hillsong Conference in Australia. And that was where I realized that something wasn't right with me. The conference itself was powerful with moving worship and incredible speakers, but the entire time I was there, it felt like I wasn't there. It was like this heaviness was building inside of me, almost to the point of causing me to have a panic attack. I was a mess.

After returning from Australia, many things from my past—things I had never faced or dealt with—started rising to the surface, and one night a few months later, I got a call from a close friend who lives in Florida. She said, "Nancy, I want you to get a pen and paper because I have some names and phone numbers to give you. I see you helping all these people and doing all these great things at Mercy, but who's going to help

you? You are a mess. I have done my homework and I have just given you the names and numbers of the top five Christian counselors in the Nashville area. You have exactly 24 hours to call me back and tell me you have made an appointment with one of them."

I would love to say that I immediately knew this was a sign from God and that I needed to make the phone call. But to be honest, I was a little bit ticked off at the audacity of my friend telling me I needed counseling! Deep down, though, I knew I needed help. And I spent the next 23 hours and 45 minutes thinking about all of the "what ifs."

The biggest one was: What if people find out I am going to counseling? I'm leading an international ministry! Won't that discredit me as a leader? But I felt like God responded by saying, "What if, instead, people find out that you are real and transparent? What if they see that I can use you in even more powerful ways on the other side of what I am about to do in your life?"

I think God allows things to come to the surface when He knows it's time for you to deal with them. Sometimes you can simply process those things alone with God, but I knew that in my case, God wanted me to go through that process with Him and a professional counselor. I want people to realize that when you reach out for professional help, it doesn't mean there is something wrong with you. It really is OK not to be OK. But God doesn't want you to stay there, because He has so much more for your life!

When I say God will meet you where you are, He met me in my prideful and insecure place where I was worried about what people were going to think. Let me just tell you that pride can take you to many "what ifs." But I eventually figured out that licensed counselors are bound by laws of confidentiality. I was saved! I could just sneak over to counseling, do a few visits, check it off my list, tell my friend that I'm good, and then I would be done with it. No one would ever know because I sure wasn't going to tell anybody, and the counselor wasn't allowed to tell anyone! It was the perfect plan.

Once I went to counseling, I discovered that I'd never actually gone through the grieving process—not just for my dad and my sister, but for other people I had lost in my life as well. I had to break free from a spirit of grief that I had stuffed way down deep inside of me. Having a counselor who could objectively walk through this process with me allowed me to see patterns that I had never seen before.

What I thought would be two to three visits turned into seven years of counseling. After four visits, I was so moved by what God was doing inside of me that I scheduled a meeting with my staff. I unexpectedly cried all the way through that staff

meeting as I shared about my struggles and how I was in weekly counseling. That day they saw a side of me that they had never seen.

After that day, I noticed a major shift. I had always considered myself as this open, transparent, and approachable leader with my staff, but I learned that my team at Mercy didn't exactly feel the same way. Everyone was afraid of me, and it broke my heart to figure that out. The enemy had me totally blinded. However, when I started getting real and honest with my staff, they started getting real with me. Because I was willing to share my story and my journey of healing, it started to change the whole culture of Mercy.

Staff members started sharing things with me that had happened in their past. They had always feared that I might be angry with them over those things, but when I started being open with them, they started feeling comfortable sharing with me some of the things they were struggling with. All of my relationships changed and improved after going to counseling. I even became bolder and more passionate as a speaker. During this season, I was speaking at large conferences in the USA and other nations and I found myself telling my story, hoping others would reach out for help if they needed it.

We always say at Mercy that you give away what you carry. And if you are carrying pain and hurt, that's what you'll give away to others. With Jesus, you don't have to carry those things on your own, and after years of counseling, I realized I no longer had to carry them. I could carry peace and healing and freedom, and in turn, give those things away to others.

Before my own personal experience, I believed some of the stigmas that come with people reaching out for help or going to counseling. I realized that I judged people who sought professional help, because I viewed it as weakness. I soon learned, though, that it was the pride in me that made me think that way. Some people think that if they have the anointing to minister to people, then they are somehow "set apart" and can handle things on their own, but again, that's pride.

After a few sessions with my counselor, she told me that anyone who had experienced the things I'd experienced in my life would be in the same position I was in. It didn't matter whether or not I was in a position of leadership. Being in leadership had nothing to do with what I had gone through.

My guess is that if you are reading these words, you likely have some things from your own past—struggles, unhealed hurts,

unprocessed grief—that you need to face and work through. Why? Because there is no such thing as a perfect life and no such thing as a perfect person. We all face pain and heartache on this side of heaven, and we often just keep moving forward without ever taking the time to really process and work through those things. We need to not only give grace to one another, but we need to give grace to ourselves. Recognizing that it's ok not to be ok removes the shame, which is a big roadblock for people reaching out for help. I know it really helped me when my counselor affirmed that no person could go through what I had been through without help.

If I hadn't gotten the help I needed, I truly believe that I would no longer be at my post as the leader of Mercy Multiplied. God would have continued to use the ministry, but I would have been replaced because I probably would have had a breakdown. If you are leading anyone and there is stuff you need to deal with, I couldn't encourage you more to deal with it. Lay down your pride and give yourself grace. Because I've

always said that if you don't deal with your issues, at some point, your issues will deal with you. Even if you don't carry an official leadership "title", we are all called to lead as Christians, and it's vital that we do so from

a healthy and whole place. God wants us to work through the issues and pain in our lives so that we can truly love people as He loves them.

I wholeheartedly believe that whatever the problem is, Jesus is the answer, and He will meet you where you are. Too often we end up turning to relationships or substances to numb the pain we feel instead of inviting Jesus in to do the work of healing and restoration that only He can do. He is the only One who can heal broken hearts and deliver a person from pain, abuse, depression, grief, or any other life-controlling issue.

Many people are experiencing new levels of anxiety, depression, and all kinds of other issues as a result of this pandemic. Others are experiencing these issues for the first time in their lives. Something in your spirit may be telling you that something isn't quite right, that you're just not okay. Maybe you haven't felt like yourself in quite a while and you haven't been able to figure out why. The decision to reach out for help is hard, but completely worth it. Don't wait until things get out of control. Don't wait until you reach a breaking point. Take that first step. Talk to someone. Find a professional Christian counselor and make the time to take care of yourself today. And like me, you might just find yourself telling others one day that it's one of the best decisions you ever made in your life. ■

"...IF YOU DON'T DEAL WITH YOUR ISSUES, YOUR ISSUES WILL DEAL WITH YOU."

CHANGED

Lives

MCKENNA 2017 Graduate



Since graduating from Mercy, I have found passions that I previously lost to my depression. I do performance art during worship at my church and have been able to create meaningful pieces for people to own. I've run a half marathon every year and eating healthy is now routine for me after years of battling disordered eating.

I'm currently studying for my Bachelor of Science in Research Psychology with a dual minor in Biology and Chemistry. My goal is to get into medical school in the next few years and become a doctor! I was blessed to be the recipient of a scholarship that covered my housing and some tuition for the semester. Without Mercy, I would not have been able to make it through freshman year due to life-controlling PTSD and its effects. Now, I am truly, deeply in love with the life that God has given me. Rather than being desperate to please others, I have the freedom to be content with doing the best that I can and pleasing God. ■

ELIZABETH 2014 Graduate



Mercy Multiplied transformed my life. Mercy provided a safe place for me to heal from my past and follow God's steps of freedom. Since Mercy, I have pursued my dreams as a prophetic artist and author. As a worship artist, I have the honor to travel and paint at different ministry worship events. I became a graduate of the Bethel School of Supernatural Discipleship, where I studied ministry and prophetic painting and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from California State University, Los Angeles. I am living out my dreams to write and illustrate stories that communicate the heart of God. I authored the books, *The Snowflake Necklace* and *Create Inspire Dream*. My passion and desire is to pursue God and help others become all they are destined to be. I have experienced Christ's redemptive power and I believe God has a story for us all. Your story isn't over yet! ■

AMANDA 2014 Graduate



The staff wasn't joking when they said my healing journey at Mercy had only just begun while in the program. My relationship with the Lord grew, including my confidence, maturity, and love for people. I've since allowed myself to accept and appreciate my relationships, community, and support team. I am not perfect, and I don't have it all together, but by the grace of God, when I fall short, He pulls me up! This is walking in freedom. Through God's redeeming grace, I completed my bachelor's degree in human development, and I am currently working on my master's degree in pursuit of a doctoral degree. I never thought this day would come, that I would be writing my story, pursuing college degrees, and even making it past the age of 20, but God had other plans. ■

CAMILLIA 2011 Graduate



When I compare my life before Mercy to the one I live today, it still brings me to tears. I grew up in a home where I regularly witnessed physical, emotional, and mental abuse. At the age of nine, my father, who was a pastor, committed suicide. I internalized the event as my fault and viewed it as a reflection of God's disapproval of who I was. The next 20 years became an ongoing cycle of chaos, abusive relationships, drug use, alcohol abuse, multiple suicide attempts with psych ward hospitalizations, and time in juvenile detention. The belief that I was inherently defective was my identity and no matter how hard I tried, it seemed impossible to break free. I literally wished I were dead.

Ten years later, I continue to share my testimony of God's grace that was shown through Mercy. The healing I received at Mercy enabled me to establish a life based on the unshakable truth of God's Word. My identity is now found in Him and not in my circumstances, mistakes, or pains of my past.

Today I am married to my wonderful husband Paul of almost ten years and we have a beautiful baby girl named Taryn Mercy. Together, we run multiple businesses within our community. God took my broken life and made it beautiful. I am forever grateful for the role Mercy played in helping me walk in the freedom I have today. ■

LORI 1997 Graduate



I graduated from Mercy Multiplied in August 1997. I spent a year at Mercy dealing with the pain of years of childhood sexual abuse, followed by life-controlling issues of an eating disorder, cutting, and a suicide attempt that brought all of my pain to a head. I became a Christian while at Mercy and my life was truly changed. I learned how to apply the truth of the Word of God through memorization and application. That truth got me through the death of my parents and an unwanted divorce. Jesus was the only one who could heal my heart, and He did and still does.

Since leaving Mercy, I earned my undergraduate and graduate degree in social work. I currently work for hospice at a hospital. I am on a team that signs patients on to hospice who are in the hospital due to suicide, homicide, accidents, terminal illness, and COVID-19. I have had the opportunity to hold the hands of many patients as they died because families were unable to be with them. I have been able to share the love of Jesus with my patients and their families. I love what I do and I know if it weren't for Mercy, I would not be where I am today. ■

KRISTINA 2017 Graduate



When I first walked through the doors of Mercy, I brought years of severe depression and anxiety with me. I spent much of my life not wanting to live anymore and attempted to end my life before Mercy. I saw no purpose in this world and really didn't understand God. I actually hated Him for quite some time. However, I decided to go to Mercy to give God one more chance. And guess what? It worked!

After Mercy, I felt God calling me to do a Discipleship Training School with a missionary organization called YWAM (Youth With A Mission) in England. After that, I felt God leading me to do another school through YWAM called School of Biblical Studies and then finished my time at YWAM in the accounting department. Without Mercy, I wouldn't have come back to God and without God, I wouldn't have become a missionary. God placed an anointing on Nancy and Mercy and because of that, I get to be a light for God and a walking example of what Mercy is about. My life is forever changed. ■

Counselor's CORNER

By Brooke Keels

WE are spirit, soul, and body (1 Thess. 5:23). All three demand our attention, and if one of them becomes imbalanced, all three areas can suffer. Our spiritual and mental health are uniquely connected. For example, negative thoughts left unchecked can become negative beliefs, and these negative beliefs are the lenses that we use to view our overall experience in this world, including God and other people. Reflecting on the past year, I am sure you can think of many instances of stressors, traumas, or just overall negative experiences. What you will find is when we allow the negative ideas and beliefs we attach to negative experiences to go unchecked, they can leave us feeling isolated, powerless, and vulnerable. These intrusive thoughts will trigger corresponding emotions of anxiety, depression, foreboding, fear, etc. If we hold on to negative thoughts and emotions, a negative belief system is formed, which begins to impair your personal and professional relationships as well as your relationship with God.

You have probably heard someone say, “Don’t trust your emotions!” Or maybe you have heard/read/used some version of the quote by John Seymour, “Emotions make excellent servants, but tyrannical [terrible] masters.” While these are not incorrect thoughts, the message being communicated is incomplete. The takeaway tends to be that emotions are bad, unnecessary, or unimportant. The truth is emotions are essential. By giving us emotions, God has given us a great gauge to check in on ourselves. When we struggle emotionally, we should see it as our gauge indicating something is out of balance in our lives. Without this, we could get too far down the road without correcting the situation. Just as when we get an infection in our physical body, our pain sensors send a signal to our brain saying, “Hey, something’s wrong here that needs attention!” If attention isn’t given, then the infection can lead to more severe circumstances. It’s the same with our emotions. When deep sadness, depression, or anxiety manifests, our emotions are telling us that something with

our mental health needs attention. Instead of disqualifying our emotions by viewing them as something to ignore until they go away or something to not be trusted, we should be careful to use them for the purpose they were intended—as a powerful tool in the fight to have victory in our lives. When you recognize your emotions have turned negative, consider what you have been focusing your thoughts on. Try to recognize if there are negative thought patterns that have crept into your mind. If so, then take action in shutting those patterns down.

"...TO BE EFFECTIVE IN STAYING MENTALLY AND SPIRITUALLY HEALTHY, YOU MUST GO TO THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM."

One of the most important principles we teach at Mercy is that to be effective in staying mentally and spiritually healthy, you must go to the root of the problem. Over the years, I have counseled many individuals with incredible trauma in their lives. I have found that the thoughts and beliefs an individual attaches to a traumatic event has a greater impact on their lives than the trauma itself. If someone is assaulted, the event itself is difficult to deal with, but the intrusive thoughts of “I’m not safe,” “No one will protect me,” “People cannot be trusted,” can continue long after the event and cause serious issues. Not many would argue that our thoughts direct our emotions; however, I don’t know how often we think about the implications of this truth. If we become depressed or anxious about an event, the first question to ask is, “What am I thinking and believing about the event?”

An overused but underutilized verse in the Bible is Philippians 4:8: “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,

whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Many of us are very familiar with this verse, but I actually believe the verse that follows is the key. Philippians 4:9 says, “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” It’s the “put into practice” part of this instruction that we can have a difficult time with. Using God’s word is a proactive exercise, and one of the things we are told to “put into practice” is the regular exercise of renewing our mind. We often suffer from clumsy thinking by allowing any thoughts floating around to hang out in our minds and dictate our emotions. We then find ourselves dealing with feelings of depression, despair, anxiety, and foreboding which can leave us feeling hopeless that we can never escape or change those feelings. We must proactively choose to think on things that are true and noble and admirable. During times of a pandemic, social unrest, and political uncertainty, intentionality is required to protect our minds from the influx of negativity.

We know that thought patterns literally change the physiology of the brain. When we continually think a certain way, neural pathways form grooves in the brain that optimize the brain’s efficiency. If you have the tendency to think about negative things, then your brain’s physiology changes to optimize the ability to think negatively. This is why it’s so important to think correctly and do so proactively. Paul urges us to “take every thought captive.” Can you see the proactive nature of this verse? It’s an imperative sentence, and Paul is giving a strong command. “Take” is the operative, active word, which means there will be a fight! If you struggle with a negative thought life, it will take work to change your brain’s physiology. The good news is that you can change it! If we proactively take every thought captive and replace these thoughts with good, true, positive ones, we create new neural pathways that are refined to think in positive ways.

We have to be purposeful with our thoughts, especially in times of external and internal stress. The only way to win the fight is to consistently fill our minds with good things, not just resist the bad, but replace it with God’s Truth. The most effective way to fill your mind with good things is through proclaiming God’s Word. When spoken, God’s Word has tremendous power in the spiritual world, but also in the physical world. When we speak truth from Scripture over and over, these words fire many areas of the brain and eventually God’s Word is deposited into long-term memory, becoming a permanent part of our brain’s physiology. A scriptural example of this principle is found in Joel 3. Here God stirs the warriors of Israel to action after many years of captivity in a foreign land saying, “Prepare for war!” How does God instruct them to prepare for war? He says in verse 10, “Let the weak say ‘I am strong!’” I would assume

"IT IS IMPERATIVE TO BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT WHAT WE ARE LETTING INTO OUR MINDS."

that after many years of Israel being away from their land, culture, family, and religion, they did not feel strong; but God’s instruction for them in their weakened state was to proclaim, “I am strong!” Here we see the principle clearly: proclamation preceded manifestation. Like the Israelites, we need to use this principle. We need to find, for example, those verses that combat our poor thinking in a specific way. I have worked with people who have a foreboding feeling surrounding their lives; an ever-present feeling something negative is going to happen to them or their loved ones. If hope is an expectation that good is going to happen, foreboding is the opposite of hope. These unchecked feelings can lead to debilitating anxiety or fear, which manifests many ways throughout the day. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 118:24, “This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” For someone who struggles with the opposite of hope, speaking this verse proclaims the opposite of a foreboding spirit. It places God in His rightful place, and with Him in charge there is good coming, and we can rejoice throughout the day!

Presently, we are enduring an incredible increase of negativity in our world. In my lifetime, there has never been a deeper sense of fear, anxiety, and foreboding affecting people who never expected to deal with these issues. With the now keen awareness of uncertainty being continuously circulated, I believe this is an incredible opportunity to apply these principles. While we are praying for our country and world, we have a chance to put into practice what the Bible teaches us and build ourselves in the Lord. It is imperative to be intentional about what we are letting into our minds. We should proclaim the promises of God. When our emotions are signaling something is wrong, we should use it to take the necessary actions to get the help we need. I believe deeply that as we apply these principles, we, as people of God, will be a more effective light for people to see in this present darkness. ■



Dr. Brooke Keels, PhD, LPC-MHSP, LPC-S, Mercy’s Senior Director, Counseling and Program Strategy, is a licensed counselor with a Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy and over 10 years of experience in counseling, addictions treatment, program design, and counselor supervision.

BEYOND OUR WALLS

BY MELANIE WISE

NORTH AMERICA



EUROPE



AUSTRALIA



AFRICA



ZAMBIA



SOUTH AFRICA



When *Keys to Freedom* was written in 2016, I don't know if any of us imagined that the study would one day be translated into another language. We certainly would have never guessed that less than five years later, the study would be translated into **five** additional languages! But here we are. 2021. And *Keys to Freedom* has now been translated into Spanish, Dutch, German, Swedish, and Danish. We know of at least 21 countries where the study is being used to equip people with the keys for living in freedom, including **Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Faroe Islands, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Rwanda, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, and Zambia.**

I remember the first time I was approached about this study being used in another country. I thought: *will this content actually be **relatable** in another culture? Will the principles still be applicable in another country, much less another language?*

It only took a moment, though, to remember that the truths and principles shared in *Keys to Freedom* are straight from the Word of God. And if there was ever a book that crosses all generations, all cultures and all languages, it's the Word of God. I was confident that while a few examples and stories might need to be adapted to better connect with other cultures, the overall content of this study would powerfully impact men and women around the globe.

In *Keys to Freedom*, we share the principles of freedom that have been used within Mercy's residential program for years:

- *Committing and Connecting to Christ*
- *Renewing the Mind*
- *Healing Life's Hurts*
- *Choosing to Forgive*
- *Breaking Generational Patterns*
- *Using Your Authority in Christ*
- *Maintaining Lifelong Freedom*

It's hard to imagine there being a human on the planet who doesn't need to know how to do these things. Every person, no matter their age, gender, nationality, economic or academic status, has hurts that they need to address and lies they need to break. Everyone has someone who has hurt them, and everyone has patterns they've picked up from the generation before them that need to be broken. It's part of living in a fractured world. No one is exempt from needing these keys to freedom in their lives.

This is why Mercy is thrilled to see the *Keys to Freedom* study reaching people all over the world today. We have been

amazed time and time again by the testimonies that have come back to us. These stories have convinced us that this process and these principles truly **work** and that the God who has anointed and brought miraculous transformation through our residential program over the years is the same God who has anointed and brought miraculous transformation through this resource.

While *Keys to Freedom* is impacting the lives of men and women in the United States, it is also exploding across Europe! With over 17,000 copies sold in the UK alone, around 400 churches using the material in small groups, and translations now completed in four different European languages, there are pastors all over the continent sharing how impactful this resource has been for their church.

The Mercy UK team has been leading the charge, traveling and training pastors and ministry leaders multiple weekends per month. Arianna Walker, CEO of Mercy UK, shares...

"It's such a joy for us here at Mercy UK to reach so many more people through *Keys to Freedom* and to help churches from many different denominations and even different countries! We are seeing men and women from all ages and life stages really develop their relationship with God, with self, and with others and learn what it means to live free and stay free!"

We also know of *Keys to Freedom* study groups in a number of developing nations, including Uganda, Columbia, Rwanda and the Dominican Republic.

Global Effect is a ministry that serves impoverished communities in the Dominican Republic by equipping them to transform their socio-economic, physical, and spiritual well-being. Janet Marchany, Executive Administrator for Global Effect, recently took their leadership team in the D.R. through *Keys to Freedom*, and that team is now taking 112 university students, 62 high school seniors and 7 more staff members through the study.



“We're using *Keys to Freedom* as our discipleship curriculum. You have no idea how incredibly helpful it is to have the material in Spanish! We're able to offer a quality curriculum, in our own language, that is God-centered. We have a psychologist and a counselor on staff. Both have expressed how they're using the principles of *Keys to Freedom* to counsel students. It is so satisfying to be able to empower the staff to empower the students and those around them with Bible-based material.” — Janet Marchany

Not only have churches and ministries around the world started using this study in small groups, but one of the ways that Mercy responded to the COVID-19 crisis of 2020 was to offer a free, online *Keys to Freedom* Boot Camp. With events canceled, people stuck at home, and a rising sense of national anxiety, we wanted to respond to the very real needs of people whose struggles were coming to the surface in unprecedented ways. Each week, one of Mercy's staff taught one of the keys to freedom on Facebook Live. Over 750 people registered to be part of this online series, and we even had a participant from over 9,000 miles away!

“This course is really blessing me... I live in Australia, and Mercy doesn't have any campuses down here... For the longest time, I was looking for something that guides me and helps me to delve deeper into my relationship with God, unearthing some fears that I have harbored for so long that they have become normal. God really does know what we need. You guys are touching lives all over the world.” — Tafa, KTF Boot Camp participant

After seeing how impactful these virtual teachings were, our Outreach Services team immediately set to create another opportunity for people to engage online with this life-transforming content. In the fall, we launched the official *Keys to Freedom* Teaching Series, which will be available for purchase in Spring 2021.

Witnessing the impact that this resource is having all over the world is a real testament to the timeless truths and principles in the Word of God. Jesus Christ is truly the same yesterday, today and forever—whether you are an executive in New York City, a stay-at-home mom in the UK, or a ministry leader in East Africa. As we prepare for a new edition of this study to be released this year, we are believing that the Lord will continue to do more than we could ask or imagine through His truths that are shared in this resource! ■



Melanie Wise, Mercy's Senior Director of Outreach, has been at Mercy Multiplied for over eight years.

While Mercy has traditionally been viewed as a ministry for women, it has been amazing to see the *Keys to Freedom* study impacting the lives of both women and men.

Jonathan Olmstead has led multiple groups of men through *Keys to Freedom* at his church in California and shared with us...

Our first class saw our little group cry together, laugh together and most importantly, grow together. Roots were dug up, lies replaced with truths, and healthy boundaries established. Our relationships grew stronger with Christ than any time before...

***Keys to Freedom* was such a success that we ran it twice a year with multiple groups per session. It was not only a great gift of which to be a part, but to watch others grow spiritually, emotionally, and biblically...Having gone through several programs, this one is by far the most freeing. It addresses the root of the problem, which is the only way in which to achieve freedom. I would recommend *Keys to Freedom* to anyone... I tell everyone about it and the freedom it offers through Christ.**

Get your copy of *Keys to Freedom* today! Visit MercyMultiplied.com/keys-to-freedom

Mercy Launches New OUTPATIENT PROGRAM

When Nancy Alcorn first started Mercy Multiplied in 1983, her goal was to provide a solution for young women who were struggling with life-controlling issues and situations. Her hope was to give women a safe place where they could find healing and freedom through Jesus Christ. The failed government systems that she spent so many years working in proved even further that the only source of true life-transformation is Jesus. As Mercy launches into its 38th year of ministry, the goal continues to be to help more hurting people find freedom in Christ. Not only do women continue to find freedom in our three residential homes, but, thousands of men and women are being reached each year through our "*Keys to Freedom*" study.

For the past few years, the Mercy Board of Directors, in partnership with Nancy, has spent a lot of time discussing ways for the ministry to expand and help more hurting people. The very idea of disconnecting from “real life” has become a significant barrier to change for young women struggling with life-controlling issues. As a ministry, we've been asking, “What if we could serve women earlier in their challenges and avoid crisis points? What if we could find a way to meet people right where they are and see even more lives transformed?”

For some time, the idea to transition the Monroe/West Monroe, Louisiana residential home into an outpatient facility has been discussed. While plans were in the works to make this change in 2021, it was during the early stages of the pandemic that these conversations became more urgent as the need to help people became greater with mental health issues on the rise due to COVID-19.

In September of 2020, in the middle of the pandemic, Mercy launched its prototype for the first Mercy Center for Wellness

and Counseling. At this center, located in Monroe/West Monroe, Louisiana, Mercy offers Christ-centered holistic care for spirit, soul, and body at an outpatient level. The same Christian counseling and discipleship program offered in our residential homes is available to any female aged 13 and older living in the Monroe/West Monroe area, as well as women throughout the entire state of Louisiana and even neighboring states if they are willing to drive to get the help they need.

Once enrolled, program participants walk through a structured, Christ-centered counseling program which lasts approximately six months. Participants can remain employed, stay in school, care for their families, and continue living in their own homes! The program accommodates various schedules. Just like our residential programs, these services are offered free-of-charge.



Through this new program, we also have innumerable opportunities to expand our life-transforming resources to the greater Monroe/West Monroe community. With plans to include *Keys to Freedom* study groups for both men and women as well as MPower trainings, our goal is to equip as many people as possible within the community to experience freedom and transformation.



With the Monroe home being Mercy's first residential home, making the change to the outpatient facility was bittersweet. Shortly after the residents were informed about the upcoming transition of the facility, a group of them were sitting in the backyard discussing their plans after graduating from Mercy. One of the residents looked up, and there appeared a beautiful rainbow over the home—an awesome reminder of God's covenant. ■

MAKING MERCY POSSIBLE

SPOTLIGHT ON: Tryphena Walker



Mercy Multiplied's residential home and Center for Wellness and Counseling are both free-of-charge to the residents and clients in our programs. Mercy does not accept money with strings attached that would prohibit our ability to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. We rely on the generosity of our donors to help hurting young women throughout the United States. We are thankful to God for impressing Mercy on the hearts of thousands of people around the world to give generously to the ministry.

We want to introduce you to Tryphena Walker who first heard about Mercy as a teenager and has been a monthly partner for over 25 years. Her commitment to give to Mercy has given women the opportunity to find freedom in Christ!

I have spent 21 years in education (16 years teaching in elementary education; 5 years of institutional research & planning at a community college). My husband has served for 20 years in the Texas Army National Guard and is in his 3rd year of teaching at a junior high school. We have three blessings, a thirteen-year old son, a three-year old daughter, and a one-year old daughter.

When did you first hear about Mercy Multiplied?

I was a 17-year-old senior in high school when I first heard about Mercy. My family and I were attending Word of Faith Church in Joaquin, TX, where Nancy Alcorn was a guest speaker. She captured my attention for a few reasons. First and foremost, this ministry was saving the lives of

unborn children. Second, the compassion and mercy that was given to these young women so that they might come to know my Lord and Savior and live freely in Christ Jesus spoke to my missionary heart. Third, I came to understand and appreciate how/where the money/funding came from matters, especially when it comes to a Christian ministry, so that it can operate free from government influence and regulations.

Later, when I was attending church at Word of Life in Shreveport, LA, Pastors Sam and Becky Carr shared their connection to Mercy Multiplied as they had adopted from there and were avid supporters of the ministry. Again, I got to hear Nancy speak at this church along with others who gave their testimonies. It was such a blessing to me because I got to see firsthand the fruit from the financial seeds that I had sown.

Your first donation to Mercy was on October 7, 1993. Why is supporting Mercy important to you?

The ministry spoke to my missionary heart, and I felt God calling me to help. Giving was how I could help.

In 1995 you began supporting us monthly. What made you decide to become a monthly partner?

In 1995, I was attending college and working toward a degree in teaching elementary education. I had given a donation here and there since the fall of 1993, but felt the Lord asking me to do more, so I decided to support Mercy on a regular basis. The testimonies of the young women who have gone through the program at Mercy have been so touching and encouraging.

What would you say to others who might be considering supporting Mercy?

This ministry saves lives, ministers the Word of God to the hearts of women who need Jesus, and honors God through the process. Supporting Mercy Multiplied is sowing into the Kingdom of God.

To learn more about becoming a monthly partner visit MercyMultiplied.com/donate. ■



KEEP UP TO DATE WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON AT MERCY!

VISIT [MERCYMULTIPLIED.COM/EVENTS!](https://MercyMultiplied.com/events)

RAISING CAPITAL

TO BUILD OUR

FUTURE

Excellence is defined as “the quality of being outstanding or extremely good.” From the beginning, excellence has been a core value for Mercy. Our homes and outpatient facility are well maintained, and their interiors are updated periodically to give residents and clients not only a comfortable place to find healing, but also a beautiful one. This past year, we were able to make several upgrades, thanks to supporters who donated to our capital campaign fund. These funds are raised to cover larger projects and updates needed that fall outside of the ministry's annual operating maintenance budget.

Thanks to a few special gifts, Mercy was able to complete much needed improvements to our facilities in 2020, including a new roof for our Nashville home, which was original to the home built in 1995. A recording studio space was established in the corporate office. This space proved invaluable as the ministry quickly transitioned its MPower Workshop to a virtual setting in addition to offering a virtual *Keys to Freedom* Boot Camp and Teaching Series. Several updates were made to our Monroe/West Monroe, Louisiana home during the transition from a residential home to the first Mercy Center for Wellness and Counseling in September. New office spaces were created as well as a reception and client waiting area.

We have several capital project needs for 2021. If you or your organization would like to get involved or fund a project in 2021, please contact Rachel Bedenbaugh at rbedenbaugh@mercymultiplied.com. ■

"WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO SEE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL FRUITS OF OUR DONATIONS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE CAN SEE THE GROWING MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY EXHIBITED BY THE CURRENT RESIDENTS AND GRADUATES WE'VE MET."
—ANONYMOUS DONOR



A FEW OF OUR

2021 PROJECT NEEDS:



New Paint:

Nashville Corporate Building: \$20,000
Sacramento Home Interior: \$30,000



Dining Room

Tables and Chairs:

St. Louis Home: \$25,000
Sacramento Home: \$25,000



Furniture for

Counselor's Offices:

Nashville Home: \$15,000
St. Louis Home: \$10,000



Furniture for Living Room and Entryway:

Sacramento Home: \$25,000



Mercy Multiplied America
P.O. Box 111060
Nashville, TN 37222-1060



SPONSOR A
girl
—LIKE TASHA—

"I'M NOT EXAGGERATING WHEN I SAY THAT MERCY HELPED SAVE MY LIFE, SHIFT MY PERSPECTIVE & REINFORCE THAT GOD IS STILL GOOD."

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 young woman who feels worthless realize the priceless treasure she is in the eyes of God?

MercyMultiplied.com/SponsorAGirl