



GLITTER & GRACE

A GRACE IN THE WILDERNESS MINISTRY

"With a little glitter and a lot of grace, we're spreading God's love all over the place."

In this issue:

- Upcoming Events
- Domestic Abuse Awareness Month
- The Story of a Girl You Never Knew
- My Response
- What's New?

UPCOMING EVENT

EMPOWERED

Jesus  Girl

Friday, November 4th

6pm - 10pm Blue Ridge View Baptist Church
745 Wolf Creek Road Pickens SC 29671

Don't Miss Out on the Empowered Jesus Girl Teen Conference

This event is going to be awesome! Bring your friends for a Girls Night Out and a lot of fun! We're going to be having a Teen Fashion Show, Praise & Worship with an awesome band, Door Prizes, and several great speakers from the Upstate (including me)! Be there and be in prayer!

I look forward to seeing you soon!

We will have a Group Dinner from 6-7pm! Cost for the event is \$5/each. You can Register your group online at www.WildernessGrace.org

If you have any questions, just give me a call.

Kayla Rampey (864) 915-8094

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"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

-2 Timothy 1:7

Did You Know?

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. 1 in 4 Women are exposed to domestic violence in their lifetimes. That's a lot of women! I say this to remind you that love is a strong word. In today's society, the word "love" is tossed around like just like any other word. No one really understands the depths of love anymore. Think about it. Who was the last person you told you loved them? Maybe it was your Mom or Dad, maybe a friend, or maybe even a boyfriend. But do you truly "love" that person? The Bible gives us a definition of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 *"Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."* When "love" becomes anything other than these things, it can lead to violence, and sometimes even death. Many young women



LOVE is patient
is kind
it does not envy
it does not boast
it is not proud
it is not rude
it is not self seeking
it is not easily angered
it keeps no record of wrongs
never fails

today find themselves trapped in relationships with men that are physically or emotionally abusing them every day. This is not the way that God wants you to live. The Lord wants you to find love that can be described as He describes it in 1 Corinthians 13. If your "love" life doesn't measure up, you may want to reconsider your relationships and focus on what God has planned for your life. Stay close to God and I promise He will see you through your darkest hours and lead you to the one He wants you to be with.

If you or someone you know may be a victim of domestic violence, whether physical, verbal, or emotional, please contact us or MARYS House so that we can pray for you and help get you back on your feet and back to the life God has intended for you. You are not alone and we are here to help you!

My prayer is that God will guide you to Mr. Right in His time and His will. Be patient your future is just around the corner.



MARYS HOUSE

MARYS House exists to ensure safety, advocacy and independence for victims of domestic violence, providing faith based family services. All calls are confidential.

Contact Info:

24/7 Hotline: 864-859-9191
MarysHouse.com

Isaiah 41:10

"I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well." Psalm 139:14

The Story of a Girl You Never Knew

Just a quick reminder: this section of the newsletter contains a story written by a mystery writer. The characters within the story are not released to protect the identity of the writer. Sometimes telling "your story" can be difficult because you fear what other people will think or how they will react but remember your biggest mess can be your greatest message. You never know how your story could change someone else's life. To submit your story anonymously go to:

www.WildernessGrace.org

Click on the Contact Us tab. Fill out the form as follows:

Name: Anonymous Amy

Email: unknown@yahoo.com

Subject: The Story of a Girl You Never Knew

Thank you for your boldness! May your story change the life of someone in need!
Here is our first "Anonymous Amy Testimony"

Every Sunday, my family and I attended the church where I grew up. I was born and raised there. My mother taught Sunday school, and by the age of 5 I was saved and baptized. I always attended Bible School and church outings and sang the same hymns every week. I was the "ideal" Christian girl...or so everyone thought.

Behind my fake smile, behind closed doors, I was living a life no one knew about.

By the age of 12, I turned my back on my God and my family. My parents started having some issues during my teenage years which led me to believe I was being neglected. They were too busy focusing on their drama and crazy work schedules to notice that I was falling apart on the inside. I can't and won't blame them for my life choices but I let my insecurities lead me away from God. I took the struggles I had at home, the neglect from my parents, and the "ideal" lifestyle everyone thought I had, and started living a life I later would regret.



I turned to boys to fill a void that I thought no one else could fill. The emptiness I felt inside broke me down every day. I was afraid to be alone. By the age of 12, I had met a boy that comforted me during my trials. He held my hand when I cried and treated me with what I thought was respect. He was there for me. I let this feeling lead me to temptation that later turned to sin. At the young age of 12, I lost my virginity and let a little bit of myself go every day. After that experience, my purity was ruined. I thought that once I lost my virginity I would never be the same. To me, my sin was unforgivable and pointless to try to fix. I was broken. From that moment on, I let the world control me on the inside while everyone around me thought I was perfectly fine. No one knew the battle I was facing every day. I dated around for the next few years and every time came up empty handed.

One by one, my relationships ended in pain. I remember feeling so broken at church camp one night that I knew something had to change. We were sitting around the campfire when the counselor told everyone to tell their testimonies. Every person had a story to tell, but my story of being 5 years old and saying a prayer just didn't make sense. As I looked back I realized that I never really was saved in the first place. All my life I had been playing church and pretending to be someone I was not. I ran to my counselor and told her I needed to talk to her but since I was a talker she told me to quieten down and wait until later. I tugged on her shirt and said "It can't wait! I need to be saved!" At that moment, my heart broke and I bawled my eyes out as I prayed and asked Jesus into my heart. I knew I was forgiven and I felt like a thousand pounds had been lifted off my shoulders.

Shortly after I got saved, I could feel the devil coming back at me again. My boy crazy self started to take back over and then he walked in the door. He was too good for me, out of my league, and way too hot for me. One day, I got up the nerve to ask him out. I wrote him a note and for some reason, he said yes. I was so excited that nothing else mattered to me in life except that moment, that amazing moment that he decided to date me. I was almost 14 and in "love."

He swept me off my feet with promises and hope for a future, yet when it came to commitment, I ran in fear. After dating him for a while, my friends started to worry. I guess you could say I neglected them and put him in their place anyway. My friends led me to believe that I was missing out on something if I put all my hope in him. They told me I needed to date around and test the waters before fully committing my life to one person. I listened to the world and ended up losing someone that was a really close friend. Things were never the same. The lack of trust I had formed in my mind continued to boil under my skin in every relationship. I was broken, I was afraid to be alone, and I couldn't trust anyone. I turned my back on my family and rebelled by acting out and talking back to the ones I loved.

When I turned 15, I started dating older guys but every one of them had one thing in mind. They all wanted me to sleep with them.

At the moment, it didn't bother me that my reputation had already been ruined, but looking back it breaks my heart. I was 15 years old and had ruined my reputation. I started trying be a better person. I continued to go to church on Sundays and Wednesdays but by the end of the week I was right back where I started from. I just couldn't keep moving forward without looking back at my past. How could a God so great, so innocent, forgive me for all I had done?



Just as I started to mend, I was hanging out at my house with a friend and the unthinkable happened. This guy was older than I was and like a brother to me. I had known him my whole life. Being alone with him was nothing I ever thought I would have to worry about. As he started to walk out the door he turned to me and tried to kiss me. I looked him straight in the eye and told him no and to leave me alone. Being bigger than me and older, it offended him. He started pushing me towards my bedroom despite hearing me say no. I screamed and kicked him as hard as I could but couldn't get away. Just as he pinned me down my mom pulled up and beeped the horn to let me know she was home. Shocked and scared he ran out the door before anyone could say anything. I didn't know what to do! If I told my mom, she would never believe me, and if I told on him, our families would never be the same. I went to my room and cried for hours until finally I fell asleep. The next day, I went to school and saw him there. The minute he walked in the room I started shaking and crying. My teacher sent me to the guidance counselor where I had to tell her what happened. Shortly afterward they called my mom and the police and told them. It was mortifying to deal with that but even worse when people didn't believe me. My reputation was not the best so everyone had an opinion about what had happened. I thought my life was over.

My trust issues only got worse. I dated around, never alone, just empty. Each relationship led to more disappointment and grief. By 17, I was searching online for Mr. Right. Boy, was I wrong! Mr. Right #1 from the internet was older, creepy, and nowhere near who he said he was online. Mr. Right #2 lied to me about where he was from and met me at my car with a gun in his hand because his crazy ex girlfriend was coming after him. Sometimes I wonder why I had to go through all this in life. Was it really necessary? In the midst of all this, my much older distant cousin tried to rape me while I was visiting family in the hospital. No one was trustworthy. No one was able to fill the void that my own mind had created.

From 12 years old to 19 I dated the world. In saying that, I mean that I dated sin. I let the world run my life. Never once did I sit down and pray for God's guidance in finding the right guy. The Bible says, "But seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). I never asked the One that I could truly trust.

At 19, I searched online one more time for a good guy. It was then that I met a man a few years older than me, working, and trying to settle down. Instead of rushing the relationship, he agreed to take it slow and move at my speed. We talked for hours on the phone, cried when we finally met, and eventually decided to spend the rest of our lives together.

No, we aren't perfect and I would change a lot of things in my past if I could, but I can't. Instead, I can move forward and only look back to tell you that life is not easy, reputations can be ruined in a split second, and you are never alone. When you feel empty inside, don't run to others to fill that void because you will always come up empty handed. Instead, reach out to the One true God that is waiting for you to call out His name.

My husband, the guy that I just mentioned, is now the father of my 3 children. We've been through a lot but we've kept God first in our lives and our children's lives. We attend church and spend time reading the Bible together.

I am more blessed now than I've ever been. The trials we endured were rough, but I praise God to be here today with a family that loves me, a husband that leads me, and more importantly a Heavenly Father that will never leave my side. Yes, I made mistakes. But praise be to God that I'm not who I used to be. God took my mess and turned it into my message.

I pray that it will help you or others around you stay closer to God and realize how blessed you truly are. You are never alone and no one can take the place of your Heavenly Father.

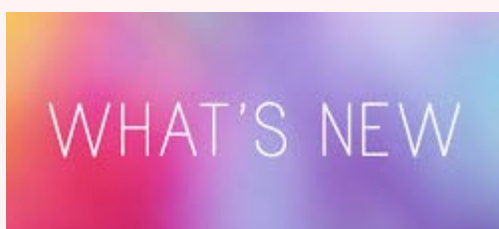
Yours Truly, Anonymous Amy

My Response:

Dear Amy,

I praise God that He protected you through all of your trials in life. Internet dating can be very dangerous and it is important that you are careful who you meet online. Your story gives us prime examples of how the internet can make it easy for others to lie. Yes, it is easy to fall into the trap of “lust” and dependence on “love” to give you peace each day, but I am glad to hear that you overcame your struggles and learned to lean on Jesus Christ. Love is a tough subject that most young girls struggle with at some point in their lives. When we feel empty or struggle in life, we often try to fill voids without the help of God. Some people lean on relationships, sex, drugs, or alcohol. When we turn to anyone besides Jesus Christ to find peace, we end up empty handed. We fall victim to “thinking” we know it all and searching for Mr. Right instead of letting God lead him to us. I pray that your story will open the eyes of one of the girls reading our newsletter and remind them that they are not alone. Thank you for being open and honest! May God Bless you!

Forever in Prayer, Kayla



Gracie's Way is making some changes!

- ◇ The new name for Gracie's Way Newsletter is: Glitter and Grace
- ◇ Make sure you check out my blog at: www.GlitterandGraceTeens.com
 - ◇ My blog site will feature upcoming events/devotions/newsletters
 - ◇ Makes sure you SUBSCRIBE online to receive my monthly updates
- ◇ The newsletter will be focused for teen girls grades 6th - 12th.
- ◇ At the beginning of each month you will receive a newsletter with upcoming events, stories, contests, and devotions
- ◇ Every Monday I'll send out a brief weekly devotion called "Monday Morning Make-Over" to start your week off
- ◇ We look forward to the future God has planned for this ministry!
- ◇ May God Bless you and show you His Grace every day!



[Facebook.com/Glitter and Grace Teens](https://www.facebook.com/GlitterandGraceTeens)

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16