

## CATCH THE FIRE

**"The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire."**

Ferdinand Foch

Strength and courage aren't always measured in medals and victories. They are measured in the struggles they overcome. The strongest people aren't always the people who win, but the people who never give up when they lose."

Ashley Hodgeson

Exactly three years ago, I first heard Don and Bridget Brewster, founders of Agape Restoration Home in Cambodia, speak of an evil so vile its details are rarely repeated or spoken aloud. *Sex trafficking*. When I learned that this foul crime against children happens in the world I live in, my heart hurt in a way I had never experienced. Tears seemed such an inadequate response, but at the time, it was my only offering.

However, when I learned children are trafficked for sex night after night in the city I live in, I was outraged. Paralyzing heartache and silent tears gave way to movement, a movement to build Courage House—homes for children rescued from sex trafficking around the world.

**"The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire."** (Marshal Ferdinand Foch) That is what I feel daily—on fire to see children rescued and then restored to be and do all God created them to. And now an army has joined me!

The following words are from my journal this past March. They are words I believe were whispered to me by God...

*"The ministry, the people of Courage to Be You (C2BU), is like a huge ocean liner powerfully moving across the ocean. An ocean liner moves the water out of the way and replaces it with its hull. This phenomenon is a natural law called displacement. Another way of saying displacing is to force out.*

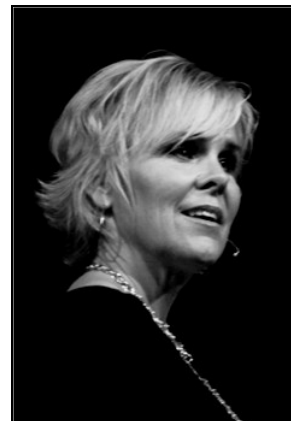
*C2BU is taking ground, forcing things out of the way based on the weight of your belief. You are pushing things aside in direct proportion to the weight of that belief. The force of it is the source that propels you and buoys you up. You cannot sink if you are heavy in belief.*

*Ocean liners operate in deep water. The ocean's depth is limitless. You are operating*

*in the limitless ocean of eternity. Besides being a movement and forcing out of the way that which is in the way of my will, you are replacing Satan's schemes with my designs. In the bible passage, Luke 5, Peter was astonished at the size of the catch, a catch he could not bring in alone. You will be astonished, too. The rescue of these children is my will. Go. Take courage. Set the captives free."*

We are close to opening the first of the Courage Houses—here in the U.S., in Tanzania, Africa, and in India. Daily, I am overwhelmed by God's movement among His people, fanning the flame of desire in each of us until it has reached an inferno of action. We are united in this purpose, and as Genesis 11:6 promises, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them."

Is your soul on fire? We welcome you to join us in witnessing the impossible become a reality!



Jenny Williamson, President, C2BU



## COURAGE HOUSE IN AFRICA



It was a month filled with tangible progress for the Courage House in Tanzania. The team that came from Clinton, Mississippi was the first to start on projects to make Courage House a place of beauty and life, and it's been exciting to experience.

The team came for a week, with hearts and souls on fire to help. We started by finishing painting the inside of the house, and we spent two days planting a garden. The back of the property was transformed from bushes and dirt to a beautiful garden. It took a bit of ingenuity to figure out the watering system, but we are now seeing growth in our 30 banana trees, 96 tomato plants, and 10 rows of corn and green beans! As we fin-

ished our work on the second day, a light rain soaked the ground for about ten minutes. I believe it was a promise from the Lord that He is blessing this land. Soon it will be an oasis in the desert.

Tanzania is known for its safaris, especially the beautiful Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara. There is a town called Kibaoni between these two landmarks where prostitution is a problem. I visited there this past weekend and met with a group of pastors. They told me how girls as young as 12 (and likely much younger) are selling themselves or being sold by their parents to get money for food. The pastors see the problem, but not a solution.

It's humbling to think that this village has struggled with prostitution for years, and for years God has given me a heart to bring justice to the broken.

God has connected us for a reason! They know the problem and have a connection to the girls involved. I have the answer.

I am full of excitement about this new partnership and believe it will be the next step on the road to rescuing the girls. This summer, I'll return to the town to give a seminar on how to minister to these girls and gather information about their lives. After learning and praying, the pastors and people from their congregations will begin meeting with these girls. Once they know specific girls who are ready to be rescued, they will contact me. These will be a portion of the girls we take into the Courage House to begin the work of healing and restoration.

Isn't it beautiful how God integrates each piece of the puzzle? -Lauren Edens

**“Speak up for those who have no voice.”  
-Proverbs 31:8a**

**“Making a difference one individual at a time—thus changing the world.”**

Courage to Be You

## A VISION FOR INDIA

In the past year, my husband Troy and I, along with a team at our church, have become increasingly involved in the issue of child sex trafficking. Our fire was lit even more when we helped our church host a C2BU benefit/awareness concert. After the concert, and after hearing about the Courage House for girls rescued in the Sacramento area, our team of volunteers went from four to 100.

Troy and I were acting as consultants to a team in New Delhi that was doing the groundwork to establish a similar long-term rehabilitation home for girls in North India. We were amazed that, soon after the concert, the Indian government approached this team and asked them to start an interim home, promising to help with licensing and the overall process. A preliminary study found that 750 children were being trafficked through one

of Delhi's three major train stations in one week. Little is done to rescue the girls, and there are only a handful of long-term homes in all of India (population 1.2 billion). Currently, girls who are rescued from sexual slavery are put into a government holding home while the government decides where they should go long-term. The homes are overcrowded and only the girls' immediate physical needs are addressed, not their starving souls and emotional devastation.

The team was intimidated by the enormity of the task. Troy and I, being so encouraged by the battle God is fighting in the Sacramento area, urged our friends to be “be strong and courageous.” They responded by asking us to join them in New Delhi to help establish a home—a home that views children as God's precious creations who can be redeemed and healed into beautiful women.

C2BU and Green Valley Com-

munity Church are behind us all the way and are sending us to India. We are leaving this summer and will be working with a collaboration of Christians to form a team and address the issue of child sex trafficking. We will honor the government's request to begin with an interim home, which will be the first step toward our goal of providing a long-term rehabilitation home. We will also begin a program to address prevention and the trafficking of girls from North Indian villages, and we will work to raise awareness of the issue in the New Delhi church and local population.

We are scared, excited, and amazed at God's timing. We believe this is the battle of our generation and we don't want history to show us sitting on the sidelines, rather than fighting with God's heart for justice and redemption. And so we go.

-Kim Dickson

## ONE GIRL'S STORY...

It was a windy March night when I first saw the young girl hugging her arms to her sides trying to stay warm. She was dressed to work the streets until dawn and she probably would. Staring at her from my safe seat in the coffee shop, I wondered if anyone had asked her where she was from, or what her favorite color was. Tiny details like that matter when you believe you're invisible and no one cares.

Suddenly, she turned and saw me through the window. Was I the first woman who returned her gaze? Smiling, I motioned for her to come inside. She walked in and I offered her a hot chocolate. She asked for whipped cream and cinnamon on top, revealing a glimpse of the little girl she truly was.

As she sipped her hot chocolate, her story emerged. Finally, someone cared enough about her to know her name, share her pain, and offer no judgment.

Her name was Allie, not Phoenix, as she first claimed. She was a small girl with a loud voice. She told me she used to like singing in the church choir, but she didn't have much to sing about anymore. She said she was fourteen and had been on the streets for two years. She worked on her own, though her pimp was never far from her mind. He brought her to Denver, offering her big dreams. What she got instead was a nightmare. Despite the scars I saw, she said she still loved him. He was the first person who told her she was valuable. As we sat and

talked, she told me about her home life and the foster home that ended up being worse than what she'd left. I cried with her.

When I invited her to come home with me and use my spare bed and get a warm shower, she wanted to know if I was crazy. "Still," she said, her sweet Southern accent becoming more pronounced, "it'd be nice to be safe somewhere."

Allie came home with me, away from the shadows of the night. I told her about Courage House and that there would be a tangible home where she could leave the ashes of her past and become a girl with a destiny. We sobbed together.

The next morning, I knocked softly on the door, only to find her gone. There

was a note for me next to the neatly folded bed linens. She had written...

Lady,

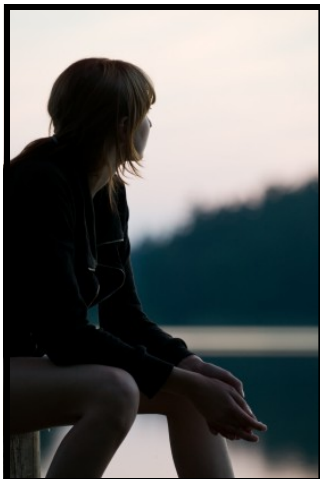
*Thank you for caring about me. I wish I could have a home. But I am scared to believe it is real. Thank you for your kindness.*

Love, Alexandria.

Allie, Alexandria, or simply Phoenix, had walked back into the darkness, and part of my heart went with her.

-Elizabeth

## It's Hard to Understand, But Let's Keep Trying



It's hard to understand the silencing power of abuse and exploitation. The depth of self-blame and shame, the many fears, and the lack of assurance that good will come from speaking out are but a few of the reasons victims remain silent.

These young ladies have experienced many of life's horrors – up close and per-

sonal. They feel unable to speak out against those who are holding them physically and/or emotionally captive. They are silent and yet, even if they could speak, they believe no one would listen to their cries. Our call is to increase our understanding of the complexities of the experiences, thoughts, and feelings of these young women, so that we may serve effectively – in whatever role we find ourselves at Courage House or elsewhere.

To help us better understand some of the many reasons for victim silence, I've developed the **Silence Compliance Model**. Reasons are categorized as **COERCION**, **COLLUSION**, or **CONTRITION**. Overlap exists, yet this model can be helpful to us on our journey toward developing awareness and, more importantly, empathy.

### SILENCE COERCION: SCARED

*FEAR is the motivating factor in this category that keeps victims silent.* Coercion refers to the use of force or threats to make somebody do something against his or her will – threats of harm to self or others, threats of being arrested or deported, as well as threats of withholding necessities, food, or drugs.

### COLLUSION: SURVIVAL

*SURVIVAL is the key – do whatever it takes.* Collusion refers to a "secret cooperation between people for fraudulent, illegal or deceitful purposes." The victim seems compliant and may even adopt that perspective in order to survive. Captive compliance occurs when there is an emotional, financial and/or drug dependence on the captor, and is complicated by isolation, helplessness (dependence on another for one's emotional and physical survival), and emotional manipulation (brainwashing).

### CONTRITION: SELF

*SELF-hate and hopelessness are the foundation of this category of silence.* Contrition refers to deep and genuine feelings of guilt and remorse, and shame over wrong-doing. It involves remorse, regret, and sorrow and encompasses guilt, shame, blame, feelings of worthlessness and hopelessness, and profound fears of stigmatization, rejection and abandonment.

As we begin to educate ourselves and sense God's heart for the many victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, we learn to speak up for those who feel they have no voice.

-Becca C. Johnson, Ph.D., 2010, Licensed Psychologist, C2BU Clinical Director

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**Do you have the courage to be you?  
 The you God created?**



*“Courage to Be You, Inc. (C2BU) is an international, non-profit, Christian organization which seeks to change lives one individual at a time. C2BU believes that each and every life not only has value but has a God-given purpose and destiny. C2BU exists to equip and encourage individuals to become who God created them to be and do all they were designed to do - nothing more - but absolutely refusing to settle for anything less and then helping them to encourage all the people in their lives to do the same.” (Tax ID 20-3126288)*

## COURAGE CORNER GALLERY

### Upcoming Events:

June 28<sup>th</sup>, California Against Slavery Rally, Sacramento, CA

July 9<sup>th</sup>, Benefit Concert, Meadow Vista, CA

July 10<sup>th</sup>, Benefit Concert, Sacramento, CA

July 16<sup>th</sup>, Benefit Concert, Roseville, CA

August 28<sup>th</sup>, RevealHouse Event, Granite Bay, CA

September 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, Co-Ed Courage Conference, Elk Grove, CA

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5K & 10K run, Folsom, CA

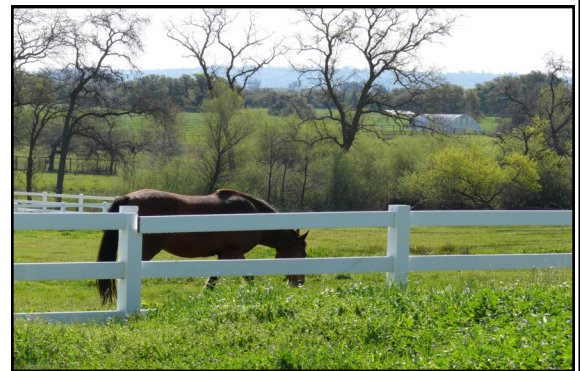
October 21<sup>st</sup>, First Annual Golf Tournament, Roseville, CA

November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2nd Annual Turkey Trot, Elk Grove, CA

For more information, visit [www.c2bu.org](http://www.c2bu.org) and click on events



Our African guard at Courage House in Tanzania cut the grass to say ... courage to be you.



A peaceful setting for healing at the Courage House in California.



Lauren Edens, who is heading up Courage House in Tanzania, Africa.