

NEWS OF COURAGE & PURPOSE

COURAGE HOUSE NOR CAL UNOFFICIALLY OPEN

“You are only as strong as your purpose, therefore let us choose reasons to act that are big, bold, righteous, and eternal.”

-Barry Munro

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"Do something!" I shouted to God three years ago when I learned children were being sold for sex, not only around the world, but in my own city. *Why don't you?* God whispered to my heart. *These are the daughters you have longed for.* (I have three amazing sons.) That moment changed the direction of my life and lead me straight into my destiny. I started a non-profit organization to equip, encourage, and empower individuals to discover their purpose. Yet in doing so, I found mine.

Six months after that conversation with God, in a room full of government workers at the State Capitol in California, I boldly declared, **"We will build a home for children rescued from sex trafficking."** I was more shocked than they were when the words left my mouth. I was filled with such an urgency to *do something* that I made the declaration as an act of water-walking, knee-knocking faith. I had no money, no land, and no plan. But I had an extraordinary belief that God has the power to do what He says. And He says **"I will be a father to the fatherless."** I didn't realize at the time that His plan to be a parent to these vulnerable, invisible children would be through people—ordinary people like me and you.

I remember my attempt to disqualify myself from partnering with God to set these captives free. *I'm just a mom!* I thought. I didn't realize that statement was the exact on-the-job experience God required. More important than a physical house, a good education, spiritual guidance, and targeted trauma therapy is the fact that these precious children need someone to call them family. They need a place to belong and someone to believe in them. My excuse became my qualification for building homes around the world for children rescued from sex trafficking.

It has been two and a half years since I blurted out that faith-filled proclamation. At the time, there were only three long-term residential homes in the nation for minor victims of sex trafficking, with a total of thirty six beds. None of them were Christian homes. It was hard for me to believe this type of 21st Century slavery existed... until I looked into the wounded eyes of children as they shared the atrocities and trauma they endured at the hands of men who purchased them for sex. Often, I heard how their own parents participated and/or profited in the transactions. I am still sickened by the images trapped in my mind from their unique stories—stories too painful to type on this page.

These are the stories that fuel my passion to be a mom to these kids, to call them family and build them homes. **It is my pleasure to announce that we have been "unofficially" open at Courage House Nor Cal**

since May 27th of this year. Quietly—without fanfare, public announcements, or grand openings—we opened our doors and hearts to several precious young ladies (over the age of 18) who have endured more in their short lives than most of us could ever imagine. I have personally witnessed God transform, redeem, and restore their lives. They are in training to be peer mentors and staff at Courage House. These girls call me mom. I call them daughter, for they are the promised daughters of my heart.

We are just weeks from submitting our application to the California State Licensing Board. We must obtain this license to officially open our doors to **minor children** rescued from sex trafficking. Our plan is to start with six children and then build out the 52-acre property (a safe house location) for seventy. Courage House Nor Cal will be the largest home specifically meeting the needs of these victims in the U.S. and the first Christian, long-term residential home of its size in the country. **But there is still much to be done in order to make this dream come true.** In addition to the license, we need financial commitment from the community. Currently, we have \$100,000 in the bank, which is required by the California License Bureau to submit the application. We need that amount *each month* to operate Courage House Nor Cal and Courage House Tanzania. Because we will be a licensed group home, the State of California will fund a portion of that monthly expense. **However, we can't open until we have monthly partners committed to providing these children a home.**

This month alone we've had to say, "No, we aren't open yet," to three child victims. God divinely intersected their paths with ours and it broke my heart to tell them Courage House is still just a dream for minors. Because Courage House isn't open yet, each of these young ladies ran away. We don't know where they are today.

By faith, C2BU, as a board and primarily volunteer staff, continues to move forward convinced that God has the power to do what He says He will do. **He will be a father to the fatherless at Courage Houses all over the world!** Won't you join us in the dream?



Jenny Williamson, President, C2BU



Courage to be you

As you pass me in the hall and try to
fake a grin,
still I see the pain you have as a
result of his sin.
The sin that haunts you every day,
but Hon, I have something to say.
Life is what you make of it.
If you see a chance then take it.
Your feelings come and go.
All decisions help you grow.
Those dreadful days could have an
end.
The first step is letting someone in.
Knowing someone knows you inside
and out,
and knowing He still loves you
without a doubt.
His name is Jesus Christ,
and He will help you fight,
fight the battle of your past,
and give you a love that will last.
He wants to heal your broken heart,
and give to you a brand new start.
Child, claim the courage He knows
you truly have.
The courage that you once saw and
knew you had.
The courage to be strong.
The courage to see wrong.
The courage to be true.
The courage to be you.

-C.G.

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

**Courage to Be You,
Inc.**

ONE GIRL’S STORY

Anna’s father struggles to make ends meet. Her mother is addicted to drugs and is often homeless. Somewhere in the midst of this turmoil, Anna continues to make straight A’s in school despite caring for her four younger brothers. They sleep on friend’s couches or at a family shelter, while Anna’s dad takes whatever work he can find. This only lasts until Anna and her siblings are placed again in the foster care system.

Until Anna lets down her guard to tell you, or wears a short sleeved shirt, you would have no idea of her double life.

Anna works the streets for a man who claims he wants to give her what she’s never had: safety, security, hope, and a stable family. He has tattooed his name crudely on her arm, as a reminder that he views her as a possession.

Anna will not meet your eyes directly, for fear of disobeying his rules. Although she desperately wishes she could change her life, she lives in constant fear of the future. As I spoke to her, she wondered out loud, “Who will be my family, if you really think I can change my life?”

Somewhere in her sweet brown eyes lurks a menacing fear that her “provider, protector and friend” will harm her. But, just for a moment, Anna may meet your gaze and you will see what I have seen...

She is a young woman with dreams, though she may not mention them in your first conversation together. Her laughter can take your breath away. When she laughs, I believe Heaven stands still at the sound, and God runs to her.

-Elizabeth

**“The real obstacles
in a liberation
struggle are the
moderate people
who are more
devoted to order
than to justice,
those who prefer a
negative peace
which is the
absence of tension,
to a positive peace
which is the
presence of
justice.”**

**-Martin Luther
King, Jr.**

HEALING AND RESTORATION

Through my writing and speaking on the topic of sexual bonding and healing, God has taken me to places and to people who have been broken, oppressed and wounded by both casual and abusive sex. One of those places is C2BU, where I’ve already seen Him restore hope, healing and beauty to the precious girls He’s rescuing from sex slavery.

For many years my motivation to reach youth with the truth about sex and marriage as an abstinence educator was because I didn’t want them to make the same mistakes I did. When I began this journey with God, I thought I was the only one who’d messed up, who’d had sex outside marriage or had an abortion. I suffered alone in my pain and shame. After hiding for 25 years, God began to take me on a journey of healing from my abortion and sexual past to restore all that the enemy had stolen

from me in this area—my voice, my identity, my future.

Now, after leading countless women through healing from their sexual pasts, my motivation has been renewed with a new passion...to prevent them from suffering decades from the devastating price tag casual sex wages, robbing them of the life, love, and joy they desire.

Although the stories of the women I lead through sexual healing are different—from those who made their own choices regarding sex to those who had it forced on them as in abuse or rape—the wounds they carry are the same. Addictions, depression, broken relationships, multiple marriages, divorce, abortion, and self-destructive behaviors are just some of the symptoms our sexualized culture has reaped. Many of these women have been scarred emotionally, spiritually and physically beyond all recognition of who they once were, or who God intended

them to be.

The world promotes one side of casual sex—the permissive, fun, pleasurable side. But the truth is, there’s another side to the story...one I’ve experienced and one that many share. Instead of what casual sex promises, what it delivers is pain, brokenness, shame, and emptiness. It has robbed children of their childhoods, adults of their voices, and has silenced the voices of those who’ve been paralyzed by its shame.

Yet there is hope. God is more than able to heal the precious victims of trafficking from their pasts, and to free them to finally become all He created them to be. But first they must be rescued. He’s asking us to be their rescuers, and countless victims are waiting for us to say yes.

-Barbara Wilson
Author/Speaker
www.barbarawilson.org



COURAGE HOUSE AFRICA

pastors.

While I embraced the opportunity to learn, my heart struggled with the pain of that truth. I watched

I just returned from spending a few days in Mererani, an area of Tanzania famous for its tanzanite mines. It's interesting to me that when I first moved to Tanzania, most nationals I met refused even the possibility that prostitution was a problem in their country. Now, people are tripping over their words to tell me all the places I need to start working. So, to the tanzanite mines I went, to do a little research and meet with social workers and local

from afar as men approached girls that don't have an option to run away from the inevitable abuse. I looked into the eyes of these young girls to find brokenness and desperation. According to the World Vision staff I spoke with, this is the only reality for these girls. They would rather get money to feed themselves today, and die tomorrow of AIDS. Of the last 298 girls screened for HIV, 80 of them tested positive. For the rest, it's only a matter of time.

We walked around the first night to do an informal investigation and get an idea of what was really happening. Later, I sat in my hotel room to reflect and pray. Here I was in a place full of people that have devoted their lives to mining for precious jewels, and God reminded me of a word He gave me last year. These girls are precious jewels. Right now they may be buried and masked by the harshness of their environment, but Courage House is about to take these girls out of the "mine" of human trafficking, and love them until their beauty is all that remains.

Eventually the time came to leave Mererani, and I struggled to leave each girl right where we found her. Thankfully, I was able to

make many connections with the pastors in the area. In fact, I will return there to do a seminar. We are also doing a seminar in Moshi. The focus of the seminars is to educate the Church on the issue of human trafficking and to address our responsibility to help. We challenge them with Biblical examples of how to respond to these precious girls with love instead of condemnation.

Out at the Courage House property, we have been focusing on bringing life. We harvested our first garden and were able to share with the people of the area. We've also planted many flowers. Truly it is becoming a place of beauty. An oasis in the desert. A place of rest and restoration.

-Lauren Edens

A Vision in India Becoming a Reality



It has been one month since our family of four moved out of our Northern California home and began the trek across the globe to New Delhi, India. So many details worked themselves out beautifully: adequate funding, visas and plane tickets, a good renter for our home, great school options for our children, a com-

fortable apartment in India near a park our little girls can play in, and so much more.

Our first few weeks were consumed with getting settled, getting sick and getting over it, getting the girls and Troy off to school, and establishing a new "normal." In that time, Lauren of Tanzania's Courage House visited us for a week. Our team in India was able to pick her brain about the home opening in Tanzania, as well as the AIM home in Cambodia where she was able to learn about their work with trafficked girls. Likewise, she got to sit in on our Courage House meetings while we established our goals for the next year, set up timelines, and divided up tasks to get the job done among our team.

In the midst of this, we visited some amazing Christian work aimed at raising HIV/AIDS awareness while

compassionately treating HIV/AIDS patients – the outcasts of society and often the victims of trafficking, prostitution, and oppression.

We are now in full throttle mode with the behind-the-scenes work of developing volunteer protocols, staff manuals, privacy and confidentiality policies, business cards, websites, and resource development plans. We are hopeful that we will be adequately funded by December, at which time we hope to have our site for the first India Courage House selected. We also hope to conduct staff recruitment, screening, and hiring by late January, and then hire and train staff through February, with an opening date of March 1st.

Our first home will be a Transition Home, where girls can come and begin the healing process—physically, mentally, socially, intellectually, and spiritually—while social workers determine the circumstances

of how the girls were trafficked in the first place, present their findings to the court, and advocate on the girls' behalfs. If the girls were kidnapped or deceived into enslavement with the promise of a "good job," the girls will be returned to their homes, per Indian government law. If their homes are not a safe place to return to, then they will need to be placed in long-term care.

Our next dream is to establish a long-term home for these girls. We will keep you updated as we move forward on these dreams.

*Please watch the PBS film *The Day my God Died* to further understand our work and the needs of India.

-Kim Dickson

"You can conquer almost any fear if you will only make up your mind to do so. For remember, fear doesn't exist anywhere except in the mind."

-Dale Carnegie



C2BU

COURAGE TO BE YOU™

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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 to help them encourage all the people in their lives to do the same." (Tax ID 20-3126288)

Upcoming Events:

October 21st, First Annual Golf Tournament, Roseville, CA

October 24th, Free Concert & Awareness Night, Santa Rosa, CA

November 25th, 2nd Annual Turkey Trot, Elk Grove, CA

For more information, visit www.c2bu.org and click on events.

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