



C2BU

COURAGE TO BE YOU

NEWS OF **COURAGE** & PURPOSE

January 2011

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We must never stop giving thanks to the God of the universe. He is always with us.

GET INVOLVED

Learn how you can get involved with Courage To Be You.



NEW YEAR MESSAGE | HAPPY 2011

I am humbled and amazed at all that God has done in the past two years.

– Jenny Williamson,
President, C2BU

It's hard to believe that just a couple years ago, God whispered the dream of Courage House into my heart—a home for children rescued out of sex trafficking, a home in my city and in every city around the world where there is need. Here we are with 2010 behind us and 2011 shining brightly ahead, and that dream is a reality. I am humbled and amazed at all that God has done.

In just the past two years, by His grace, C2BU has:

- Purchased 50 acres of land, a house, and a barn for the first U.S. Courage House in rural Northern California. We were also given seven horses to begin an equestrian program.
- Partnered with Sacramento's Law Enforcement Chaplaincy to train and commission over 250 volunteers to be equipped in the rescue and restoration of trafficked children.

- Infiltrated Juvenile Hall with caring, trained volunteers to bring a message to incarcerated youth that they were created on purpose.
- Partnered with law enforcement, state and national law makers, the FBI, and prosecutors to host forums, concerts, and awareness events to educate the community on the severity and frequency of this crime against our children.
- Partnered with the California Highway Patrol Academy to train cadets and officers in identifying victims.
- Partnered with and provided trained volunteers for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) organization in the Sacramento area.
- Equipped, encouraged, and empowered a family to travel to Delhi, India to begin Courage Home, a transitional home for girls rescued from sex trafficking.
- Held government, community, and

faith-based events in Honolulu, Hawaii at the request of several organizations interested in bringing a Courage House to Hawaii.

- Held the first Men, Women & Teen Courage Conference, equipping, encouraging and empowering individuals to be and do all God created them for.
- Opened Courage House Nor Cal to two young women over 18 who were once victims, but who are now victorious and in training to be C2BU staff and peer mentors at Courage House while they pursue degrees.
- Partnered with the Sacramento Sheriff's Department to obtain a federal grant allowing C2BU to hire a group home administrator and lead therapist.
- After a nine month process completed by a volunteer team, C2BU submitted our 900 page application and program statement to the State of California, petitioning for a group

Christians are more known for what we're against than what we're for ... before confronting what's wrong with our culture, we need to be humble enough, honest enough, and courageous enough to repent of what's wrong with us.
Primal, by Mark Batterson

THANK YOU, GOD

In the midst of all my troubles, I have found a way to grow, grow halfway into the person I want people to know.

Although my issues and my problems are not too far behind, I see that place beside You where it feels safe to reside.

You wrap Your arms around me when I need someone to care, I know that when I need You. You will always be right there.

Sometimes when I think I can take the world on by myself, I tend to push Your love aside and place You on a shelf.

When I realize that I need You and I can't do this on my own, You guide me on Your path and fix what I have blown.

You have the power of the world and wish I understood. You give and take away, but only for my good.

You lead me out of trouble and show me the right way. You have never left my side so now... I have to say.

You loved me unconditionally when the world was just Your goal. For this I want to thank You from the bottom of my soul,

You are the best thing in my life and you live inside my heart. So from now until the end of time, never will we part.

BY: C.G.

NEW YEAR MESSAGE | **continued**

home license.

- Leased a building and land in Tanzania, Africa for free for the first International Courage House and renovated and restored the building to make it a home.
- Obtained government approval to house children rescued from sex trafficking in Tanzania.
- Trained pastors in Tanzania, Africa on how to lovingly respond to sex trafficking and prostitution in their villages.
- Through a volunteer team comprised of professionals in the community, designed a master plan and drawing to be submitted to the county for

approval of ten cottages and renovations to the current structure in Northern California so that we can provide homes to approximately 60 rescued children.

- Expanded C2BU Board of Directors from three members to nine.

It has been encouraging and awe inspiring to observe all that God has done through C2BU, our donors, and volunteers. If you have given of your time or your finances to support our cause of rescuing and restoring children from trafficking, thank you! As we start this new year together, I reflect on the past with gratefulness and I look to the future with eager anticipation, for this is truly just the beginning.

COURAGE HOUSE | INDIA

Opening a home this spring requires details, details, details. We're hoping, praying and expecting God to move.

Could anything be more mundane than applying for official tax status within India so we can pay our taxes? That is where we are right now at Courage Homes in India—working on the mundane—figuring out how to do vacation and sick leave for our staff moms, getting the HR manual finalized and translated, establishing our website (www.couragehomes.org), doing reference checks on applicants, applying for grants, and looking for funding. People ask us for an update and I long to tell them of lives being healed and transformed, but it is in this mundane, behind-the-scenes work that we plant roots for a solid, transforming home for girls rescued out of sex slavery. We are still generally on track for opening a home in March/April, but there are many details that need to work themselves out between now and then.

Meanwhile, the sex trafficking scene in India is bleak, according to trusted friends who have done undercover research in the brothels over the past few months. There have been so few raids and rescues in the Delhi brothels that the traffickers, pimps, and madams have become lazy. With no fear of the law, the number of young girls trafficked is staggering—it reminds our friends of other major Indian cities before such organizations as Freedom Firm and International Justice Mission began to work. The research has broken their hearts, as well as ours, and we are praying for the girls in these brothels. We pray that the children caught in sex slavery will hold onto hope, that their spirits will remain alive, and that they will be ready for healing when they move to Courage Homes.

In fact we are hoping, praying, and desiring several things. We desperately need a rescue agency to come to Delhi. The USA has FBI special task forces. Delhi, a city of at least 15 million, has one police officer trained and rescuing girls. She's a hero, but she is alone—working with a few non-governmental organizations (NGO's) to do a rescue from a tip here or there. We pray for her—for protection, continued courage and rescues. The rescue agencies say it is hard to come to Delhi because of the shortage of good aftercare homes. They don't want to rescue girls, only to have them fall back into the hands of traffickers and end up in the brothels again. So we move forward in the details of setting up while rescue agencies in other cities watch and pray for Courage Homes to be established. We pray for the staff we are looking to hire. We pray for the last bit of funding we need to open. Please pray with us!

– Kim Dickson

COURAGE HOUSE | TANZANIA

We're excited about what God is doing, but we still need your help to ship goods to Tanzania.

I've spent the past few months in America, and it's almost time to head back to Tanzania! My spirit is excited to return. It has been difficult to be away from the place and the people I love, but I know that the Lord has done great things in this time.

Back in October, I left things in Tanzania on the brink of some great progress. The church of Tanzania has been informed and is ready to reach out and share Christ's love with these precious girls. The government of Tanzania is willing and ready to help us find and house the girls. The Courage House garden had its first productive harvest. All signs point of great things to come, yet God told me it was time to head across the ocean. And so I did.

Since October, I've been traveling throughout the states non-stop. I have spent time recognizing the problem of human trafficking in various settings and meeting with people who are fighting to stop it. I've spent time meeting with C2BU staff and figuring out the most effective way to adapt our vision to Tanzanian culture. Thankfully, I've also

spent precious time connecting with supporters, family, and friends, telling of all that the Lord is doing.

One of the most exciting parts of my time in America was collecting all of your generous donations for Courage House Tanzania. Everything from bedding to trampolines is all stacked and ready to be shipped. There has been a slight problem though. The opportunity we had to share a container with another organization fell through, and now we have no way to ship everything to Tanzania. I know the Lord has blessed us, and I know he will not stop halfway. We are believing, and humbly asking, if anyone would be willing to cover the shipping expenses of our container. We can either fill a 20 foot or 40 foot container, and the cost ranges from \$10,000-\$20,000 dollars depending on the size we choose. If you are interested in making such a generous donation, or making a contribution towards this effort, please contact C2BU at info@c2bu.org or email me directly at laurenedens@gmail.com.

– Lauren Edens

WELCOME | VICKIE

Courage To Be You is excited to welcome Vickie Hemmann to the Tanzania team.

Vickie has been seeking the Lord about going to Africa for several years and finally made the big move at the end of 2009. She spent the last year teaching physical education to orphans at a Christian boarding school in Tanzania. She also started a support group at the boarding school for girls who have lost their mothers. Throughout that year, the Lord continually broke Vickie's heart for the girls of Tanzania and crossed her path with the work of Courage To Be You. This year she prayerfully decided to commit to volunteering full-time in our efforts to open Courage House Tanzania.



“Once our eyes are opened, we cannot pretend we do not know what to do. God, who weighs our hearts and keeps our souls, knows we know and holds us responsible to act.”

Proverbs 24:12

HER STORY | MELANIE

I found myself in what I thought was a bad situation. There I was, traveling at 3am and a snowstorm grounded my train. It would be awhile until I could get a hotel room. One could almost laugh at the ridiculous events that can accompany traveling in the winter. Yet that night was different; it was a divine appointment. I just didn't know it yet.

At the time, I was concerned about how cold my feet were getting. I was wearing sandals. I didn't focus on the girl right away; I was watching the much older man attempt to have her come with him in his vehicle. She wasn't willing, but she was cold. Her physical, practical needs outweighed her gut instincts that probably said “Run!” as loudly as mine did. He didn't intimidate me, though. What stopped me cold was the fact that no one else around cared that a young girl was being propositioned by a john.

Muttering a few prayers under my breath, I walked into the harsh light of the street lamp and interrupted their conversation. What did I have to offer him? Nothing. What could I offer her beyond a bed in my hotel room and the promise of breakfast in the morning before I continued traveling? I could offer her hope, dignity, and a conversation about Courage House; but mostly I wanted her to be fed, warm, and loved.

She ate 13 pancakes at the restaurant nearby. Most pretend she is invisible and wouldn't dream of interrupting that earlier conversation. She constantly hears lies from the media and even people who consider themselves educated. She believes the lie that she has chosen this life, if you can even call it that. She hasn't heard that she is loved and that she has a purpose. Melanie was safe for only a few hours. But I won't stop believing that someone else will interrupt her life with love, dignity, and purpose.

– Elizabeth



UPCOMING EVENTS

Courage Conference

Feb. 4th: 7pm-9:30pm

Feb. 5th: 9am-5pm

Jackson, Mississippi

Free Concert & Awareness Night

Feb. 13th; Natomas, CA

Feb. 18th; Auburn, CA

Feb. 25th; Stockton, CA

Mar. 2nd; Redding, CA

1st Annual "Golf, Blues & Barbeque Golf Tournament"

April 8th; Roseville, CA

Vision Update / Volunteer Fair

February 24th, 6-9,

Adventure Church, Roseville

VOLUNTEER INFO | GET INVOLVED

Courage To Be You was founded to equip, encourage, and empower individuals to discover and fulfill their God-given purpose. We realize that before any individual can recognize their potential and find their purpose, their most basic human needs must be met. When we discovered a population of vulnerable children who are not having these needs met because adults are exploiting and selling them for sex, we vowed to do something. These invisible children need a home—a place to belong, where someone will believe in them. C2BU intends to provide them with one. We call this place Courage House™.

If you'd like to join us in this cause, stop by **our updated website at www.C2BU.org** to learn about events, status updates, and how you can get involved. **You can even shop at our new C2BU store!**

To become a monthly partner or donate online,
visit www.c2bu.org and click on donate,

or

mail your tax deductible donation to:

C2BU

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