



C2BU

COURAGE TO BE YOU™

NEWS OF COURAGE & PURPOSE

2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WHAT IF YOU BELIEVED?

God's whispered answer of what I've believed for the past three years has caused me great excitement. His fulfillment of the promises he has made leaves me in awe and focused on the year ahead.

COURGE HOUSE UPDATE

As we speak purpose and destiny into these precious girls' lives, the message starts to swell in their hearts, putting pressure on the very purpose God has woven deep into their spirits.

WILL YOU GIVE GENEROUSLY?

There is no greater joy this side of Heaven than seeing precious girls brought safely home to their family—their family at Courage House. Will you join us in seeing God move and welcome them as part of our family?

TANZANIA

What a beautiful promise for the girls of Courage House and for each of us. As we begin this season of bringing girls home, may we also seek the Lord and walk with Him in the great plans He has for our lives!



WHAT IF YOU BELIEVED YOU COULD CHANGE THE WORLD?

I do believe, for I have seen evidence this year as young girls have come home.

– Jenny Williamson,
President, C2BU

Words escape me. Reflection is a luxury I have not indulged in for quite a while. I feel like I have been running a marathon at a sprinter's pace! I began in 2011 asking God for the same thing I do each year: a word—a word to encourage me, a word to sustain me and a word that gives me an indicator of what I am to focus on for the new year. This year, His whispered answer caused me great excitement for it held much promise.

“Fulfillment. Fulfillment of all that you have prayed for, fulfillment of all you have believed in and fulfillment of the dreams and desires I deposited in your heart.”

It was confirmed when I read these words spoken by an angel: “Blessed is she who believed for there will be fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.” Luke 1:45

For three years, I have believed. I have believed with all my heart that pure evil is the instigator behind what many of us are now calling sex trafficking. Sex trafficking. That is an interesting way to describe the rape, abuse and torture of children who are being repeatedly sold for sex as if their bodies were a reusable commodity. I have heard it said the reason why sex trafficking or human trafficking will one day bring a higher yield than the drug trade is because a drug you can only use once...but a child: they can be used and sold, over and over again.

For three years, I have believed. I have believed that God will bring justice to those who participate in this evil and that He will shine a bright light in the darkness where this evil festers and grows so that the young captives can be set free. I have believed that God will build an army of His people to go to the ends of the earth preaching the good news and setting the captives free. In this year, that dream is being fulfilled.

For three years, I have believed. I have believed that when these precious daughters are released from the darkness, the only thing they will need is a safe home, someone to believe in them and call them family, as well as tangible tools to equip, encourage and empower them in their healing and ultimately in their God-given destiny.

I have believed for three years that God called us at C2BU to help build these types of homes around the world. We call them Courage Houses because it does take courage to walk out of the darkness of your past, engage in the necessary steps to ensure your future and then lend a hand to others coming out of the same horror. In this year, that



COURAGE HOUSE | WHAT'S NEW

God creates an incredible “garden” throughout the earth, one blossoming flower at a time.

When a flower is ready to bloom, a great amount of pressure forms in the bud. The petals and inner sepals begin to interlock, ensuring the bud stays intact; once critical pressure is reached, the flower blossoms rapidly—displaying beauty for all to see.

“And the day came when the risk it took to remain tight inside the bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom”

– Anais Nin

We are watching this process happen in the hearts of young girls. As we speak purpose and destiny into their lives, the hope that this message might possibly be true swells in their hearts, putting pressure on the very purpose God has woven deep into their spirits. In time, that desire to walk in something greater surges to the surface, revealing incredible strength and beauty. The process is risky and occasionally painful, but what comes forth is well worth it.

Whether this be girls in American juvenile halls, girls found surrounding Tanzanian mines, children in the brothels of India, or those flooding the streets of Hawaii, the process is the same—enclosed, broken hearts begin to open as love and hope compel the true daughters to come forth. Courage Houses are finally able to welcome these very girls home!

We welcomed girls home to Courage House NorCal this fall. Their days are full of schoolwork, horseback riding lessons and time spent building relationships with people who love and believe in them. They can't wait to have more sisters filling the home!

Courage House Tanzania has also officially opened. CH staff are busy at the moment networking with pastors and community members to find these hidden treasures. Tanzania doesn't have task forces or FBI agents looking for these young women; our staff goes into the brothels, bars and streets to search them out. God has divinely directed us to many of these girls, and we are assured that several will be coming home shortly!

Courage House Hawaii is also underway. CH staff are networking with local social service agencies and looking for land to begin building. In the meantime, they continue with regular street outreach, building relationships with girls trapped in sex slavery, knowing one day they too will have a home.

C2BU also welcomes back some of our heroes, the Dickson Family, who spent the last year working at Courage House India. Thank you for your dedication to seeing lives restored!

Our excitement grows as we watch God create an incredible “garden” throughout the earth, one blossoming flower at a time.

– Melissa Herrmann, Courage House Program Director

Will you give generously? Will you call them family?

God will provide through people like you.

As I stepped out of my car with my four daughters to meet the first child to call Courage House home, my youngest, only 3 years old, ran ahead to greet her new family member. She called her by name and wrapped her chubby little arms around her as if she had known her for years. We spent the afternoon with this precious young girl, and as my husband and I watched our girls laugh and play with her, it became clear she was home. She was with her family. My girls told me it was as if we had always known her.

My husband and I decided in that moment, that along with witnessing our own four daughters being born, there is no greater joy this side of Heaven than seeing precious girls brought safely home to their family—their

family at Courage House. My heart is overwhelmed with the responsibility to care for, support and love them—the same responsibility I have for my own children. As I daily take to prayer the question of how we will fund Courage House, I know from the very core of my soul that God will provide. These are His children and He loves them more than I could ever think or imagine. Just the way He loves you and loves me. But God is so clear in His word about injustice and oppression as He states in Isaiah 58: “Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?” I know that God will provide, but I know He will provide through people like you. That moment with the precious young girl would have never been possible if it

weren't for monthly donors who give of their finances to set the captives free. The moment needs to be multiplied again and again until every girl sold for sex is brought home.

Will you allow God to use you today to bring a child home to Courage House? Will you believe that you can change this world one life at a time? I am asking you today on behalf of every child who needs to come home if you will give your year-end financial gift to Courage House. Will you give generously? Will you call them family?

– Danielle Jones
Fund Development Director

COURAGE HOUSE | TANZANIA

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under Heaven.

The winter is changing into early summer here in Tanzania, and it's refreshing. Cold rainy mornings have been replaced by bright sunshine and they remind me how God's mercies are new every morning.

Seasons are important for the production and sustenance of all of nature; the same is true in our lives. Ecclesiastes 3 begins, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under Heaven." This is an exciting season here at Courage House. We are finally moving out of the foundation-building season and preparing to welcome girls home! What a wonderful journey it's been so far! I can only imagine the seasons yet to come.



We welcomed many guests these past months. Courage to Be You Founder Jenny Williamson visited with Stephanie Midthun, a board member. Courage House Program Manager Melissa Herrmann came to train our staff. Several volunteer teams gave time in service. Each time someone arrives to see Courage House, I remember the incredible work God has done; He selected people from around the world to give their time, money and prayers to these precious girls.

In June, Erika Santiago and Amanda Baskett came to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. It was Courage to Be You's first climb to Uhuru Peak (Uhuru is Swahili for

freedom). Truly the work of Courage to Be You around the world has been a journey to freedom. As we stood at the Roof of Africa declaring freedom for the captives of this world, the Spirit of the Lord was thick. I could feel His heart for our girls who are enslaved, and His heart is full of hope and restoration.

One verse that speaks to me in different seasons is found in Jeremiah 29. Starting in verse 10, God speaks, "But then I will come to you and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. 'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you

look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you,' says the Lord. 'I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes.'"

What a beautiful promise for the girls of Courage House and for each of us. As we begin this season of bringing girls home, may we too seek the Lord and walk with Him in the great plans He has for our lives!

– Lauren Edens

BELIEVING | continued

dream is being fulfilled as we said, "Welcome home," to children in Northern California and in Tanzania, Africa.

Welcome home. It is hard for me to articulate what it feels like to watch a child walk through the doors of Courage House for the first time—whether in Africa or in the United States—and watch them experience the reality of the fulfillment of a dream. It is harder for me to describe what my heart feels when they burst into tears or jump on the bed or run to the barn to see "their" horse for the first time, looking at me as if it is a dream they are sure to wake up from. I am overwhelmed when they whisper, "Thank you for choosing me." I am in awe when they call me family.

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

I have believed for three years these daughters would one day call Courage House home. This year, that dream is being fulfilled. I am overwhelmed at the goodness of our God. I am overwhelmed by the sacrifice of the team that works and volunteers at C2BU and Courage House. I am overwhelmed by the simple truth that believing in something bigger than yourself enables God's will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Wholeness and holiness are being experienced at Courage House because of that belief.

As I reflect, trying to articulate all that is in my heart, I think one of the hardest things for me to explain to you is that you matter—your prayers, your money, your belief in our efforts to build these homes. All of this has changed lives and will continue to change more lives. More than a single life, together we are changing the world! The song that C2BU artist Cameron from The Reel wrote for our efforts, "What if you believed you could change the world?" stays with me constantly. I do believe, for I have seen evidence this year as young girls have come home to Courage House. Thank you. Thank you for believing in us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Informational Orientation

November 8, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Adventure Christian Church, Roseville

Turkey Trot 5K/10K Race

Thanksgiving Day, 2011
Elk Grove

Informational Orientation

December 1, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Law Enforcement Chaplaincy
Sacramento

Golf, Blues & BBQ Tournament

May 3, 2012
Morgan Creek Golf Course, Roseville

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

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 is providing 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.

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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