



THE Sheepfold

Shelter, refuge, and a new beginning
for abused women and their children

February 2012

Edith's Story . . .

Before coming to The Sheepfold, my life was in shambles. As a young single mom, I met and married a man I hardly knew. He was the handsome and helpful sales clerk in the Christian bookstore where I bought my first Bible. I thought he was my "Prince Charming." He was funny and kind, he even seemed to be a good influence on my daughter. Within the first couple of years of our life together, I realized that I didn't know the man I married at all.

He enjoyed drinking socially, then he started spending more of his free time at home smoking pot and drinking. When our children were born things settled down for awhile. He was excited about becoming a dad, but as time passed things got worse again. He wouldn't get a job because of his drug and alcohol use. I lost my job and we had to give up our apartment. It was very depressing.


We moved to a motel for the next three years. Motel life was very scary for me as a mother. It seemed like every other day the police were showing up to arrest someone and drug busts were a regular occurrence.

After thirteen and a half years in an abusive and unstable marriage, I felt overwhelmed. My four children and I were eventually abandoned. My husband blamed me for where we had ended up. Nothing I ever did was good enough or right in his eyes. With him gone I had no childcare, so I had to give up my night job. We got to the point where we had nowhere to go and no help. I felt like we were drowning.

A group of Christians would come and bring food, play music and share the love of Christ and God's word with the motel families. It was like God was showing me there was still hope.

Then a friend from church suggested I contact The Sheepfold. I was afraid of the unknown that The Sheepfold represented, but at the same time I was relieved that my children and I had a safe place to go.

Since coming to The Sheepfold, I felt the stress that had escalated for over a decade slowly fading. At the same time, I was concerned about how long we would be able to stay, and if it would be enough time to give my children a sense of normalcy. The chaos that was once my life is now



*Yea, though I walk
through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for thou art with me . . .*

—Psalm 23:4

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Though I speak with
the tongues of men
and of angels, but have
not love, I have become
sounding brass or a
clanging cymbal. And
though I have the
gift of prophecy, and
understand all mysteries
and all knowledge, and
though I have all faith,
so that I could remove
mountains, but have not
love, I am nothing.
And though I bestow
all my goods to feed
the poor, and though
I give my body to be
burned, but have not love,
it profits me nothing.

—1 Corinthians 13:1-2 NKJV

Reaching Out to Women in Prison

We have shared many stories in our newsletter about all the miracles of lives saved, lives renewed and lives transformed in Jesus' name.

Three women a day are murdered victims of domestic violence. (Bureau of Justice Statistics) I am not going to tell you about the women who got out alive, nor about the women who were murdered by their abusers; I want to tell you about the forgotten victims of domestic violence, women who found no help from the justice system, and thus no hope in having protection from their abuser. Women who could see no way out of their abusive situation or anywhere to escape from the one who tormented them.



I am speaking about the "Convicted Survivors." (Convicted Survivors: The Imprisonment of Battered Women Who Kill by Elizabeth Ann Dermody Leonard, December, 1997). These are women who found themselves in a situation where they had to protect their lives by taking the life of their abuser in the moment of a lifesaving circumstance.

Recently, I have been blessed by the Lord Who opened the prison doors so that I could teach many precious women the preventions, methodology and victimology of the dynamics of domestic violence. During this time, I have witnessed the power of healing through education and the understanding of the cycle of domestic violence instilled with the Word of God. Victims of domestic violence blame themselves for their abuse; they feel that they could have prevented it. This is the manipulation of the abuser to confuse their victim to take responsibility for the abuse they are suffering.

I want to share a few things the women from my classes have shared with me:

☞ "I wish I knew about this before. I was married for 23 years and now I am doing sixteen years to life."

☞ "My mother was shot and killed when I was six years-old. I came to your class, not because I am a victim, but because I wanted to know 'why' her boyfriend did that when he said he loved her. And to know why my mother was with a man who would do that to her."

☞ "I am the perpetrator; I want to learn why I do it. I don't want to hurt anyone again."

Please keep these women, and their children they have had to leave behind, in prayer. Thank you for supporting our ministry so that we can go into the community and educate and bring healing to those who need it the most in the effort to break the cycle for the next generation.

—DeAnne DiGuiseppe
Legal Advocate

*... He has sent me to proclaim freedom for prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the
oppressed, proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

—Luke 4:18-19

Matching Funds 2011

First off, thanks to our generous donar who offered the donation in 2011 of \$250,000 matching funds to aid in the payoff of the Orange County Second Step Facility. Secondly, thank you everyone who contributed to help us pay down this mortgage.

Your generous giving has enabled us to payoff more than \$400,000 of the mortgage. The term of our existing loan ends in 13 months and our balance is now under \$400,000 on this property, which is valued at \$2,000,000.

The nine families currently living at the facility are so blessed to be in such a wonderful and safe apartment. It is because of each of you giving that we are able to provide this for them.

We excitedly look forward to the future when the final payment is made and we will, once again, be debt free. Please join with us in our continued prayers for God's future direction for the ministry. ✂



Newhope Second Step Shelter

Dear Sheepfold Mailbox

✂ I was lucky enough to be in The Sheepfold shelter in Tustin in 1996/1997. I went into the shelter beaten down and hopeless. Jesus restored my life and gave me hope. I loved the office managers who helped me and loved me through the process. I still attend the church that was our home church during my time at The Sheepfold. I just wanted to let you know how grateful I am for The Sheepfold.

✂ Enclosed is our donation which we are sending because our granddaughter is staying with you. She has had so much praise for what you are doing for her and her daughter. We really appreciate the help you are giving her. We were so fearful for what was happening in her life before she came to you. Thank you so much!

✂ A young Sheepfold resident, a six year old girl in first grade was upset because one of her classmates was always saying "bad words." She decided to tell him that he had a dirty heart. If he asked Jesus into his heart he would get a clean heart, so he could stop saying bad words. From the mouths of babes . . .



Edith's Story — continued from cover

order. My children are not as angry with our situation and they are doing well in school and childcare.

I was able to go back to school for training as a Certified Nursing Assistant and did so well I got a full time hospital position including benefits.

All of this would not have happened if the Lord did not bring us to The Sheepfold. In Bible studies I've learned so much about what I've gone through and what changes can be made with God's help. I've received so much support from the house managers. It has been such a positive change, and now my family is looking forward to the future and all that God has in store for us!

—Edith



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*But for me
it is good to be
near God; I have
made the Lord
GOD my refuge,
that I may tell
of all your
works.*

-Psalm 73:28

February 2012

The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

is the respected organization that audits non-profit corporations on a yearly basis to verify that all donations were recorded properly and were used for the purpose for which they were given, and requires a full financial statement for supervision by The Sheepfold Board of Directors monthly.

Membership in the ECFA is only granted to non-profit corporations who meet their rigid standards. We are proud of our long-standing membership in this organization.



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Founder The Sheepfold

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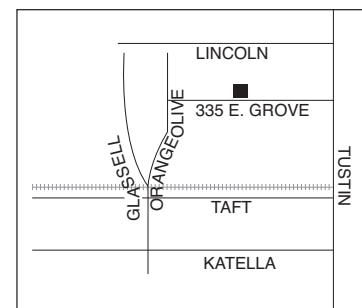
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