

January 2015

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## UP, UP & AWAY

I grew up in the church, but the abuses in my life convinced me I was of no value. After serving God and ministering in music for 15 years, I walked away still not believing He could love me. My radio career masked my alcohol & cocaine addiction for 17 years.



I didn't have to lose everything, because my rockbottom was being separated from God and forgetting who I am in Him.

I never thought I'd be used by God again, but He's healed me from the pain of my past, freed me from alcohol, cocaine & self-injury & restored me to my purpose; I now lead The Mercy House worship group, "Trophies of Grace." Eph. 1:11 says "It's in Christ



that we find who we are & what we're living for. Long before we first heard of Him, He had His eye on us, had designs on us."

fully convinced and trust in the love unfailing even through my failure.

OUT OF THE MIRE Four years ago, I was a school guidance counselor with a promising future until drugs took almost everything. The guilt and shame of the life I was living was the very thing keeping me trapped. I saw no way out and absolutely zero hope for the



future. I was stealing, lying, and doing whatever it took not to face the reality of my situation. I was arrested on felony drug & grand larceny charges. I didn't realize it then, but by going to jail, I was being plucked out of the mire.

"I saw no way out & had zero hope for the future."

The judge sent me to NLFY. Over the next few months as God began restoring my life I became happier than I can ever remember being. As my relationship with Jesus grew so did my responsibility in the program.

I am now the Induction Director for the men's program and am able to use once-squandered skills to counsel people who are dealing with the same issues I faced. Without NLFY, I'd be either dead or in prison, but thanks to God I have the opportunity for a new life.

KNOW SOMEONE LIKE LISA OR BRIAN

WHO LOST THEIR PURPOSE

AND THEIR HOPE?

THERE IS HELP!

**Help for Men** 

Men's Ranch - 804.448.2750

## GOD'S MIRACI TROPHIES OF GRACE

Call TODAY to book these powerful groups in your church, school or organization! **God's Miracles Trophies of Grace** (Men's group) (Women's group) 804-448-2750 804-230-4485



**Help for Women** The Mercy House - 804.230.4485

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Carlos and Rosalinda Rivera **Executive Directors** 

Starting each year, the pastors, staff & interns of NLFY pray Up2Date a humble prayer: "Lord, bless us, help us to impact more lives, make the way, and give us strength for the journey!" We are

humbled every day to see lives changed in such complete and amazing ways with God's transforming love. We are blessed to have the most faithful workers laboring beside us. We are moved by the many volunteers who give of their time, treasure and talents throughout the year, even in the midst of their own suffering, in order to be a part of something God-sized.

Do you have a desire for 2015? Don't just supersize it; GOD-size it! Go farther than your experience could take you; reach higher than your talents can stretch you; believe in an idea so big that only God could make it happen; and be a blessing with whatever resources God has blessed YOU with.

All that's needed for lives to be restored is for each of us to use whatever has been put in our hands and watch what a faithful God can do with it.

My parents had a God-sized vision 43 years ago when NLFY began so humbly in their little home and they gave whatever was in their hands to rescue those in need. He has allowed us to see miracles happen time and again through ordinary people like you.

Try it & watch your blessings increase and your own sense of purpose become God-sized in the process. I challenge you to commit to joining with us this year as WE commit to reach even more young people with the only way to true freedom.

It's going to be an exciting year!



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Name: Address:			nent Method: Check	dit Card / Issuer:
City:Email:		Zip Car		
Please accept my tax of		ation of: Mak	e checks pay	able to: New Life For Youth