

Encourager MINISTRIES

JAN—JUNE 2010



ENCOURAGERMINISTRIES.COM



From Mary Kay...

CALENDAR:

Aug 1—Bethel Worship Center, Camden SC

Aug 7—REFUGE breakfast, Gardendale AL

Sep 9—Swainsboro Gideon Camp, Pastor Appreciation Banquet

Sep 21—First Baptist Church Ladies Night Out, Alcoa TN

Sep 24-26—Angel Tree Conference, St. Louis MO

Oct 2—Laurel South Camp Gideon, Pastor Appreciation Banquet, Laurel MS

Oct 5—Judson College, Marion AL

Oct 22-31—In-prison seminars and several other events, Topeka KS

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The following story has been circulating on the internet for several years but I just came across it recently and it really touched my heart. I hope it touches yours as well.

Clay Balls

A man was exploring caves by the seashore. In one of the caves he found a canvas bag with a bunch of hardened clay balls. It was like someone had rolled clay balls and left them out in the sun to bake. They didn't look like much, but they intrigued the man, so he took the bag out of the cave with him. As he strolled along the beach, he would throw the clay balls one at a time out into the ocean as far as he could.

He thought little about it, until he dropped one of the clay balls and it cracked open on a rock. Inside was a beautiful, precious stone! Excited, the man started breaking open the remaining clay balls. Each contained a similar treasure. He found thousands of dollars worth of jewels in the 20 or so clay balls he had left.

Then it struck him. He had been on the beach a long time. He had thrown maybe 50 or 60 of the clay balls with their hidden treasure into the ocean waves. Instead of thousands of dollars in treasure, he could have taken

home tens of thousands, but he had just thrown it away!

It's like that with people. We look at someone, maybe even ourselves, and we see the external clay vessel. It doesn't look like much from the outside. It isn't always beautiful or sparkling, so we discount it. We see that person as less important than someone more beautiful or stylish or well known or wealthy. But we have not taken the time to find the treasure hidden inside that person.

There is a treasure in each and every one of us. If we take the time to get to know that person, and if we ask God to show us that person the way He sees them, then the clay begins to peel away and the brilliant gem begins to shine forth.

May we not come to the end of our lives and find out that we have thrown away a fortune in friendships because the gems were hidden away in bits of clay. May we see the people in our world as God sees them.

I am so blessed by the gems of friendship that each of you are to me!

Thank you for looking beyond my clay vessel.

Changes at EMI

Good news, bad news—sometimes it's both!

Four years ago my sister, Ilene, came to live with me to help me with Encourager Ministries, Inc. (EMI). She has been a wonderful support to the ministry, keeping EMI running smoothly while I travel and speak. Recently Ilene decided to "retire" as my full-time assistant and go back to college to complete her degree in education.

So, while this is good news for Ilene, it is bad news for EMI because her departure leaves us with a critical need to find one or more individuals who can fill her shoes as soon as possible. There are four specific tasks we need help with to replace Ilene: One of the jobs Ilene has been doing is to maintain a large data base of approximately 3,000 people I have come in contact with or who have given us donations. The impact of this is significant because it supports

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the next task.

A second job is to send a paper copy of the EMI newsletter to about a third of our contacts three or four times a year (although we would like to increase the frequency to six times a year). We need volunteers who will stuff remittance envelopes into the newsletter, put labels on the letters and arrange them in zip code order to be mailed at bulk rate. This is vital to our ministry because most studies reveal that one of the most effective fund raisers is a frequently published newsletter.

The third task is to act as my travel agent. When I receive an invitation to speak, this involves sending a "press kit" outlining my seminar topics, personal background and photo and travel requirements. This person would book transportation, arrange for copies of my book "Rogue Angel" to be sent to the location, and confirm all this with the host/hostess, which requires several emails and phone conversations.

Finally, I need someone who would manage my calendar, make counseling appointments for counselees, put all my appointments on my calendar and remind me where I am supposed to be and make sure I have the necessary teaching materials in my folder. I am often asked to provide handouts, and this person would send master copies to my host to be copied for each seminar attendee.

If you or someone you know would like to find out more about one of these four tasks or would be willing to volunteer to help with one of them, please call me at 815-0139. This may be good news for you too!

In other news, I have some pictures to share. Ilene's son, Joey, recently decided to sacrifice his hair in order to donate it to the cleanup effort for the Gulf oil spill. Every little bit helps!



Ilene's other son, John, is now a student at Auburn University. Here he is trying to fit everything into his new dorm room. She is one proud mom of both her boys!



Prayer requests

We have received several prayer requests from different people and we would like to share them with you. As Christians we know that prayer is POWERFUL and your prayers are needed and very much appreciated!

Please pray for Carla Cook Fuqua who has been missing from Piedmont AL since October 29, 2009. She is 28 years old and has an 8 year old son who is staying with his grandmother. The police have exhausted all leads.

Please pray for a daughter who has a history of drug use and is resistant to all attempts to help her. Her parents are earnestly praying for God's will to manifest in her life and ask for your prayers as well.

Please also pray for Mary Kay's ministry. Pray that finances will continue to support this ministry. Also for Mary Kay's safety as she travels, that God will guide her words, and that hearts will be open to hear His message.

HELP US GO GREEN!

Start receiving this newsletter in digital format.
Save trees, save postage, get faster delivery!

EMAIL us at: encouragermin@gmail.com
or SIGN UP on the web at: encouragerministries.com

New P.O. Box

Please make a note of our new mailing address:

Encourager Ministries, Inc.
P.O. Box 38203 I
Birmingham AL 35238

Praise report

Many of you know that our brother, Tom, is battling cancer and we wanted to give you an update. While he has good days and bad, Tom has responded well to treatment so far and we are encouraged with his progress.

In other health news, Mary Kay is adjusting well to her new blood

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Extended Family Ministry

Meet Maudie!

What is life like for family members when an inmate is released from prison and returns home? What financial, physical, emotional and spiritual challenges will they face? What services or support will be available in their community to help them deal with the situation?

Laure and Jerry Clemons have established a ministry that helps prisoners' families to deal with the answers to these questions and shows them how to successfully adjust to a new way of life.

Extended Family is a three-part support system offering monthly family meetings, a nation-wide resource database and a one-on-one networking system.

If you have someone coming home or you know of someone who has recently come home from prison, please check out their website:

extendedfamilysupport.org



Have you met Mary Kay's alter ego, Maudie? If you're looking for something a little fun and different for your next meeting, consider inviting Maudie to share her wit, wisdom, and upbeat look at life with your group!

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pressure medication after her recent health scare. She is feeling much better!

Ilene's housing situation is still not settled. The house is completed (and beautiful) and she is waiting for a closing date to be set. We are thankful that the deadlines have been extended to September and pray that all the paperwork can be completed in time.



We had a visit from good friends, Ron and Vonnie Roth from Carlsbad NM, over Mother's Day weekend. They are longtime friends and volunteers in prison ministry and they helped Mary Kay paint her front porch!

Response Form—June 2010

I would like to make a tax deductible donation to Encourager Ministries, Inc. in the amount of:
 \$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 _____

I would like to become a Monthly Supporter for:
 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 _____

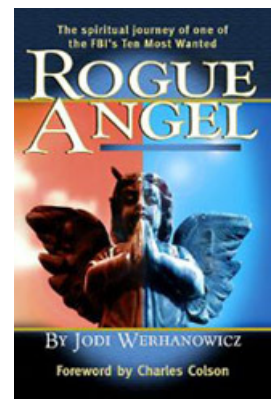
I would like to send in my pledge each month

I would like to have my pledge automatically withdrawn from my account. (Please fill out the form on the back.)

I would like to give a one-time gift to be used wherever most needed: \$ _____.

I would like to give a gift in honor or memory of my loved one:
 *In _____ of _____
 Given by: _____

Join Encourager Ministries, Inc. and Mary Kay Beard as she shares her ministry of love, redemption and encouragement.



Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Notes: _____

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encouragermin@gmail.com
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Automatically Withdrawn Donations

We are pleased to offer you an easy way to make monthly donations! The Direct Payment Plan allows you to have your donations made automatically from your checking or savings account.

The Direct Payment Plan:

- Saves time and postage, no checks to write or mail
- Provides security, no lost checks
- Offers convenience, donations are made regularly at the same time each month
- Is easy to sign up for, easy to cancel

Authorization for Direct Payment

I authorize Encourager Ministries, Inc. to initiate entries to my checking/savings account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing to cancel it, in such time as to afford the company a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I can stop payment of any entry by notifying my financial institution 3 days before my account is charged.

NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

ACCOUNT NO. _____ CHECKING OR _____ SAVINGS

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ROUTING NO.

SIGNATURE

DATE

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MY PLEDGE AUTOMATICALLY WITHDRAWN FROM MY ACCOUNT ON THE ____ 1ST OR ____ 15TH