

# Mighty to Save ministries

*Offering hope and new beginnings to young adults who want to be free from addictions by providing mentoring, discipling and transition assistance.*

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## Free at Last

As of this writing, it's been three weeks since our lives changed forever -- again. This change, however, has brought much joy to our hearts. It has been one of those good changes that we had been waiting for, counting down the days until its arrival.

Finally, after 1259 days, or roughly 41 months, our Samantha is a free woman! She had served her time; and she was able to walk out the front doors of Mission Creek Correctional Center for Women.

It was a beautiful morning. Van and I arrived at 7:45am along with both of our mothers, my sister and her daughter. We were bearing huge smiles and carrying flowers, balloons and gifts. We were instructed to wait outside on the front steps. I seriously felt like dancing. It was encouraging as some of the guards we had gotten to know during our many visits, stopped on their way into work, and offered kind words filled with hope for Samantha and for our family. And then, we spotted our Samantha walking towards the front doors. The doors opened, and out she came. FREEDOM! She was so beautiful. She was wearing

"regular" clothing. No more khaki pants and maroon t-shirts. Her eyes were bright and her smile large.

As I reflect on those days of incarceration, yes, some were difficult. There were many days filled with heartache. Some of the days dragged on. Sometimes it felt as if time were standing still; but overall, I can honestly say, there



Van, Christina and Samantha with two Mission Creek staff at Samantha's release.

were more days overflowing with growth in our relationship with Christ and in our relationships with each other. I believe because we had surrendered that time to HIM, and invited HIM to be a part of it, HE showed up in a big way.

We worked through past hurts and experiences. We worked through lies we believed about God, about ourselves and

about each other. There were some pretty intense conversations at times; but we stuck it out. We never gave up, and we made it through. We are overcomers. It feels pretty good too. It feels like we have made it over to the other side, whatever that may be.

As our hearts are full, and we are rejoicing over Samantha's healing and homecoming, we still remember the others involved in the accident and their families. We don't take lightly the pain, disappointment and hurt they too experienced, and still live with. We will always be connected on some level.

Our God, though, is a God of healing and a God of redemption. My dictionary defines redemption as...

**redemption** | ri-'dem(p)-shən | noun

1. the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil: God's plans for the redemption of his world. • [ in sing. ] a thing that saves someone from error or evil. 2. the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt...

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God takes our sin, our hurts and our pain and exchanges them for forgiveness, freedom and healing. It is one amazing deal; and that is what God has done with this situation for our family.

That is something that only God can do. Nowhere else will it happen, and no one else does things like our heavenly Father. He is so full of love for us, and like a good daddy, He wants to take our mistakes, turn them around, and use them to help us for His glory.

As Van was praying for Samantha before church on Sunday, her first time ever to come to the church on Lopez Island where he pastors, he received a word to share with her.

*“You are my daughter. With you I am well pleased. As my daughter, you are part of my royal court. Hold your head high as you are an example of the redeeming power that comes from heaven to earth for those who operate according to my will. As a citizen of my kingdom, I have appointed you as representative to demonstrate my will for all that you encounter. Your story is one of power and grace.”*

As this portion of our journey comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your continued love and support throughout these past 3 1/2 years.

We could never have made it through if you had not continuously showed God’s unconditional love to us. We have never felt judged or condemned, but have always known we were received and accepted. Thank you for letting us cry on your shoulders, for praying with our family, and for coming alongside and supporting us in ways we could have never imagined.

It is with anticipation and excitement we enter into this next season to see what God has in store for this family.

With a grateful heart,

~ Christina

**Participant’s Note**

Recently we received a phone call from a woman in prison. Her father had

just passed away; and she was asking if we could help her to be able to attend her father’s memorial.

If an inmate is to attend a family member’s memorial, there are many things that need to happen. Proof of actual relationship has to be established with birth certificates, death certificates, marriage and even the occasional divorce certificate. However, the most difficult hurdle to overcome is the cost. The inmate or someone representing the inmate has to incur the cost for the travel to and from the memorial, and the salary for one or two guards depending on the circumstances. In most of these situations, it is difficult for the family to raise the funds because of the cost of the memorial service itself.

For this particular inmate, Carla, the cost for her to attend was \$750.00. Carla’s family was able to raise \$300.00. I told her we would do what we could to help but that was a lot of money. I sent an email request out to our Prayer Support Team. Within three days, the rest of the \$450.00 needed was pledged; and we were able to issue the money order to the Department of Corrections and Carla was able to attend her father’s memorial.

God is so good! He has blessed us with the BEST supporters EVER!

The following is a note from Carla.

*“I just wanted to thank you and Mighty to Save Ministries and all the people that God used to orchestrate the funeral visit for my dad’s funeral.*

*I have been locked up for almost five years and during this five years, I have had one visit a few years ago from my dad and brother. Which is ok, because God knows exactly what we need when we need it and He knows how exactly to make it happen.*

*My dad passed away on the 26th of January and I don’t come from an earthly family that has a lot of money. I am from Yakima, on the Eastern side of the mountains. I really desired to be able to go to this funeral and I heard of a lady by the name of Christina who had helped another gal in here with almost the same situation so I called this woman who I have never met and explained what had happened and asked her to put me on the prayer chain to raise the money.*

*When I gave my life back to Christ in July 2009 I became part of the family of God. I have new family members, a new bloodline and an unlimited supply of everything that I need.*

*God made sure that I got to go to that funeral. Through the prayers of the body of Christ and most importantly, Father God, I was able to attend the funeral.*

*I had not seen my mom and two of my children in almost five years and I got to hug and kiss them and they got to see how God has changed me inside and out.*

*I just wanted to say, in the name of Jesus, thank you family of God for all your prayers and donations for me to be able to go! We serve a faithful God who is Mighty to Save.*

Love Always,

Your sister Carla

*And remember that Gods’ ways are higher than ours and so are His thoughts. If there is a struggle in your life right now we need just to give it to God and let Him handle it. He is the perfect Father.”*

**New Board Members**

Mighty to Save Ministries is happy to announce the arrival of two new board members.

Mary Bame and Mary McEathron have been huge supporters of MtSM since its inception; and we are so pleased to have them on our team in an official capacity.

I first met Mary Bame in 1998. At that time, both our families attended His Place Church, in Burlington. They had put together small groups to go through a book, When Sceptics Ask, and Mary and her husband, John, agreed to host our group. It was supposed to be a 12 week group.

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Little did we know when we first met that I would be walking through their door almost every Wednesday night for the next ten years!

It was with this same group that I met Mary McEathron. Mary and her husband, Mark, had built a house just a few doors down from the Bame’s, and had begun attending our Wednesday night gatherings. They were such a delightful addition.



Mary Bame and Mary McEathron

Both of these “Marys” have influenced my life in many ways over the years. They are kind, compassionate women, very strong in their faith. They radiate the love and grace of our Father; and I know they will be a wonderful influence to this ministry.

## Transitional Housing Update

We continue to move forward in our Transitional Housing project. For someone who has never done anything like this before, I had no idea just how huge this would really be. To meet the needs of this undertaking, we have created an Executive Committee to lead the advance.



Jim and Beth Pemberton

We are so pleased and thankful to Jim and Beth Pemberton, Mark and Sheri Tibbles and Duane and Shari Remmenga for saying, “yes” to us, and being willing to be part of the work of this team. They will work with the grant writers, realtors, contractors, public officials and any other people or groups with whom we need to interact. They will be in charge of all the details of this project, insuring its completion. They will oversee grant monies and be accountable for how they are spent and making sure everything is taken care of and that bills are paid. Now I am sure you see why we are so thankful for them!

Each of these couples has a very special place in the hearts of our families. We know these people to be honest, hard-working individuals filled with integrity. When the topic of Transitional Housing first came up in MtSM, these three couples came to mind. I knew from the beginning that somehow they would all be involved at some level. I am filled with gratitude at their obedience in answering the call to be involved with MtSM.

Another very important need for this project is a House Director, someone to live on the property to meet with the Residents regularly, to lead, guide and empower them. This person will set the atmosphere

of the home. I ask that you join us in praying that God will send the right person to us to fill this vital role. I trust that HE has already hand selected this person; and now all we have to do is wait until the person’s identity is revealed to us.

Thank you for your prayers for this project, and for all the people who are involved in making it happen. We are truly grateful.



Shari and Duane Remmenga



Mark and Sheri Tibbles



## To Support MtSM

### **Commit to Pray — Email**

[prayer@mightytosaveministries.org](mailto:prayer@mightytosaveministries.org) and request to be

added to the email list.

**Finances — MtSM is funded solely by private contributions.**

Your ongoing support helps in funding the purchase of

Bibles, teaching materials, travel, meetings, volunteer

training, counseling and so much more. Please consider

supporting MtSM on a monthly basis.

### To Donate

Mail checks to the below address or go to

[mightytosaveministries.org](http://mightytosaveministries.org) and donate online via PayPal.

### Contact Us

#### **Mighty to Save Ministries**

P.O. Box 1738 Oak Harbor, WA 98277

[info@mightytosaveministries.org](mailto:info@mightytosaveministries.org)  
(360) 929-2959



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## Join the Team

**Prayer:** Your prayers are powerful and effective! If you would like to join our team of Mighty to Save Ministries Prayer Warriors, please send an email to: [prayer@mightytosaveministries.org](mailto:prayer@mightytosaveministries.org)

**Financial Support:** Please consider MtSM in your monthly giving. You can give a one time donation or schedule monthly giving using PayPal. Go to [mightytosaveministries.org](http://mightytosaveministries.org) for details.

Mighty to Save Ministries is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 entity. Contributions to Mighty to Save Ministries are tax-deductible.