

# 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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## Steel Magnolias

In this edition of the MtSM Newsletter, I am going to write about something other than addiction. I was blessed with an amazing experience I feel led to share with you.

Steel Magnolias is one of the best chick-flick movies ever made, and certainly one of my all-time favorites. I cannot tell you how many times I have watched this movie, too many times to count. Without fail, every time I watch it, I cry. I cry from sadness, and I cry from laughter.

For those of you unfamiliar with this movie, here is an IMDb (Internet Movie Database) short synopsis: **Revolving around Truvy's Beauty Parlor in a small parish in modern-day Louisiana, STEEL MAGNOLIAS is the story of a close-knit circle of friends whose lives come together there. As the picture opens, we find Drum Eatenton shooting birds in the trees of his back yard in preparation for his daughter's wedding reception that afternoon. Shortly thereafter, M'Lynn and Shelby (Drum's wife and daughter) depart for Truvy's to get their hair done for the wedding. "Just the sweetest thing," Annelle Depuy Desoto**

**(who may or may not be married because her marriage may not be legal) is introduced to Truvy's customers as her new "glamour technician." While in the chairs, the sour-tempered Ouiser Boudreaux shows up and entertains the assemblage with her barbs. It seems that the only one of the group who truly understands Ouiser is Clairee who is recently widowed and looking for a diversion. As she says, later in the picture, "If you can't find anything good to say about anybody, come sit by me." Filled with humor and heartbreak, these "Steel Magnolias" make us laugh and cry as the realities of their lives in tiny Chiquapin Parish unfolds.**

There is a scene towards the end of this movie that is the real tear-jerker. Shelby has passed away; and in this scene at the grave site, her mom, M'Lynn, allows herself to let her real emotions out in the safety of being alone with her three dear friends. In this moment, she goes from being strong, to sobbing, to yelling and stomping, to laughing, and to crying. It is an emotional roller-coaster.

I think this scene has always impacted me for a couple of reasons. First, being a mom, this is one of the worst things you could imagine

happening, so the emotion of losing a child surfaces. Second is the bond between these women. This group of women varies in age, background, and social status; but there is a connection that runs deep. The way these women love, support, fight and defend one another touches our hearts. I believe that God designed us to be in community and relationships like these, that they are essential to our survival and health.

I know that during my times of trials, I was blessed to have women come alongside me. I have thanked God many times for the women He has put in my life. I know that they love me well; and for that, I am thankful.

This past weekend, I got to experience this type of friendship on a whole new level. One of my friends suffered a terrible loss in her family. Her precious two-year old grand-daughter was killed in a horrific accident. As she walked through this trial, God continually gave her strength; and she continually passed this strength on to the parents of the child and the rest of her family. She prayed fervently and stood on the promises of God.

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She helped carry her family through the hardest week any of them had ever experienced.

The day after the memorial service, eight women gathered around my friend for a few hours. I have to tell you, this ended up impacting me like I would never have imagined. We sat around and just listened at first. She shared the story. She shared her heart. She shared all the wonderful miracles that God had done during this time. He healed past relationships. He healed hearts, and brought hope into what seemed a very hopeless situation. Like the movie, this time was filled with laughter and with tears; but what was very different than the movie was the presence of the Holy Spirit. His presence filled this room. His presence brought a peace and a joy that can only come from Him.

We cried and laughed together. We then prayed together. The emotions all came flooding in-- the deep sadness and sorrow, the letting go, the thankfulness for having had two years to love and cherish this precious being.

The most special moment came when one of the older women called my friend over to her. My friend lay against this woman, with her head on her chest; and this woman began to sing in the Spirit over her. I knew at that moment I was being incredibly blessed by being a part of something so very special. This woman loved my friend as a daughter. She sang over her. She stroked her hair and rubbed her arm as my friend laid safely in her arms and cried. It was truly beautiful. God was loving my friend and singing over her through this other woman. WOW!

Another revelation of God’s love for us came through a moment where this precious baby’s momma held the baby in her arms and travailed over her. As the momma cried, her own father stood over her, held her silently, and let his daughter cry and work through her pain. The picture of the father standing over his child as she wept makes me think of how God is with each us, His children. As we go through our trials, as we weep and cry,

our Father, our Papa, our Creator, stands over us. He goes through these moments with us. He never leaves us, nor abandons us, but walks through these seasons with us.

In every season, in every situation, in every trial God is with us. Sometimes He is loving us through other people. Sometimes, He just stands over us like a strong tower. But, we can be confident in this-- He is there.

~ Christina

**Participant’s Note**

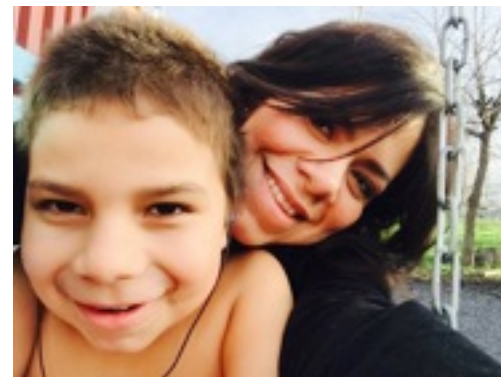
Hi, my name is Carolina Landa. I am 33 years old. I am writing this letter as a way to show how grateful I am to God and all that he has done for me through this journey and season of my life. He is truly amazing.

While I was incarcerated in prison in June of 2011, I first met Samantha Bowling, along with many more beautiful women that I am blessed to have in my life today. They are all my sisters; and I love them. I then met Vanon and Christina Bowling. This family and the way they were with me has truly been a blessing from God. They have always been so supportive and loving, and for that I am grateful.

I was incarcerated for 3 years and 8 months, the last 4 months I finished at home on electronic home monitoring through a program that was offered to us if we have children at home. Another lady and I fought hard for this. We even changed Department of Corrections policy for other future ladies to have a fair chance to be a part of this program. God had his hand in this the whole way. I know that being incarcerated was the best thing that could have happened to me, I used my time productively; and rebuilt a relationship with God that still remains strong out here. My plans started while I was in there. The plan I execute today is because of God’s grace upon me, upon all of us, if we let go and let Him lead. This is not my story, this is God’s story.

After I came home, I started achieving my goals. My son Zachariah did as well. It takes work and hard work at that; but it’s never impossible with

God. My son is 8 now, and has autism. He is an amazing blessing, and I would never change that as there is so much purpose through him. I see God’s message in him every day. It is beautiful to be grateful for the little things that I might not notice if it was any other way. I will explain all the blessings God has bestowed upon us.



Carolina and Zachariah

When I got home, Zachariah was still in diapers. I knew potty-training was one of my first goals. Within a day, underwear mysteriously appeared on our doorstep. I knew it was God; and I said, “that’s it, tomorrow is the day”. In one day, Zach was potty trained. Then I got a job. When I called for a W-2 to file my past taxes at a former employer, I was offered a job. They wanted me back! We then got a reliable car, and I moved forward with my plan for school.

While I was incarcerated, I got to be a part of an amazing project with SPP (Sustainability in Prisons Project). I had an amazing mentor who I met through the program, along with many more people who all have supported my success. My mentor helped me write an amazing essay letter. I just recently found out I was awarded the biggest scholarship; and I am set for the whole year as I dedicate my time to school and studying, and Zach and his therapy, as I am his number one advocate.

I start at Evergreen College in the fall of this year. These are all amazing blessings from God. I am grateful. I keep an open communication with God; and always pray, asking to continuously be able to hear Him and see Him in all things, as He is always there.

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I just celebrated 4 years of being clean and sober on the 28th of March. Life is amazing in recovery; and I wouldn't have it any other way. There are still so many more goals to accomplish; but I know that with God, all things are possible. He has a love for us that is indescribable. This life is amazing; and I am forever grateful for His grace.

I hope this story touches at least one person, that they might know that all things are possible, to never give up because with hard work and focus, all things can come to full circle; and there is so much peace and serenity in that. Thank you for allowing me to share, and thank you to the Bowling family, the Landa Family, all the people involved with Mighty to save Ministries, all the counselors, and the beautiful women I have met along this journey who are my sisters today. We have a bond that is so strong, and with God of course. I am forever grateful to you all.

Sincerely,  
Carolina Landa

P.S. I will write again as these miracles of work from God continue to happen, never losing sight of what's important.



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training, counseling and so much more. Please consider

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### To Donate

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### Contact Us

**Mighty to Save Ministries**

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(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.

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