

final thoughts... from Paula

From Widow To Winner is interested in partnering with other agencies that are passionate and proactive in making a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable. In 2012, more than 23,000 children in Foster Care aged out of the system. They have no family to support them, no education, no skills, no medical care, no housing. They are being set up for failure; resorting to drugs, gangs, being exploited through sex trafficking, prison or death...the alarm has sounded and we must RESPOND!

Lovely and unexpected moments happen in my life quite often. One happened to me on Wednesday, October 1, 2014.

Recently, about 3 weeks before that date, our neighbors next door moved suddenly and then we heard the elder gentleman, husband and father, died a few days after the move. I thought about them and prayed for them. I was so moved with compassion for this family that lost their loved one, even though we didn't have a close relationship. We didn't speak the same language, they were Iranians and neither of us had learned each other's language. Our greetings were limited to hello and nodding with a smile. The mother and I would always smile big as we passed each other and slightly bow. I was somewhat frustrated that I couldn't really express in words how sorry I was for her loss.

But the unexpected happened one day when she was walking through our court where she once lived next

door to us. I happened to look out of my door as I was fixing something on the door, I looked up and I was delightfully surprised to see her. Compassion has no language barrier and our eyes and our hearts met as I reached for her to let her know how sorry I was about her husband's passing. No words were spoken, but she fell into my arms and cried on my shoulder, one widow to another and she knew I cared without speaking a single word. It was a lovely and unexpected moment of God connecting widows through His love and compassion.

As she raised her head and looked at me, she smiled with tears flowing down her cheeks, she smiled through the tears and bowed graciously and kissed my hand. Wow, what a God moment! As she walked away, I prayed for her and truly once again, I felt God's lovely calling on my life to use me as a vessel to help ease the distress of the widow! I feel I made God smile that day and I live to do that!



coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

A Widow's Story
An Emancipated Youth Story
The Strengthening Families' Conference
What's Happening in 2015?
Final Thoughts from Paula

I'm thrilled to tell the world that I surpassed my goal for winning 65 people to Jesus Christ to celebrate my 65th birthday!

116
and counting...

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Walk-A-Thon Results!
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A Quarterly Insight into the Current Issues of Orphans and Widows

From Widow To Winner Projects International

Joyfully advocating on behalf of the Orphans and Widows

"Learn to do right! Seek justice. Encourage the oppressed, Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow". Isaiah 1:17(NIV)

A Widow's Story – Pastor Christine Holmes "What Do You Do When the Bottom Falls Out"?

This is not happening to me I thought. I remembered every detail of the night before but it still seemed like I was dreaming. Over and over again it felt like a dream that I would wake out of, but I was awake. Shocked out of my mind, bewildered, and trying to keep it together at the same time. There is work to do, prayers to pray, despite the fact the county examiner just picked up my husband and he was on his way to the morgue. After I got over the initial shock I kept moving in the direction I always move in "faith". On the first day I woke up without him by my side I was determined to do everything in my ability to make it possible for him to come back in case he chose to, and in case the Lord allowed him to. I remembered the prophetic word he received a year prior to passing. That word was given by a guest speaker he had arranged to speak at our church. She had a horrid childhood filled with the most extreme trauma I had ever heard of. As a result of the trauma she endured; when she was born again, Jesus took her on a

visit to heaven. When she ministers many of the people in attendance experience visitations to heaven. She spoke to my late husband prophetically that he would also experience a visitation to heaven. He reminded me throughout the year and I was always quick to tell him "You just make sure you come back"! He would always smile and chuckle. I never would have thought it would have happened like this. I would believe until the end. I would release every ounce of faith I could. I would put feet to my faith. I would actively participate with my faith. I determined not to sit in a corner somewhere and just accept what had happened. There was too much fight and faith in me to let it all just happen without fighting back. It would be the fight of my life, and everything I ever learned, studied, heard would be tested in me. Just five months before my husband's passing we were stunned by the death of a good friend. He was a Apostle, a Pastor and a close friend of my husbands. My husband had just talked to him a few days earlier. Then he received a call, his wife was requesting us to join in a select group along with her to go to the funeral

home and pray for her husband's resurrection. We did, along with a guest, a minister who was visiting us from Malaysia. The event was unlike any I had ever attended, faith was electric and filled the atmosphere. There was definitely resurrection power flowing through the building. We laid hands on the body and released our faith, we prayed for hours, we went back day after day. Then there were the bigger meetings when more intercessors and praying believers were invited in. I had never seen such a move like this in our city or in the nations of the world where I had traveled, so much faith was released in these meeting and there was great expectation. People rose to the occasion and we were so blessed to see so many exercising their faith. Little did I know or realize this was preparation and a rehearsal for what I would be repeating five months down the road. As my husband lay on the floor near our friend's coffin in intense prayer for his resurrection I never imagined I would be looking at him in a coffin and praying over him in less than 5 month. God has a way of preparing us for the future that only He could know. In both cases neither my friend's husband nor mine were raised from the dead. **continued on**

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From Widow To Winner Projects International

A Faith-Based 501©(3) Non-Profit Organization
All Donations are Tax Deductible

Please make your generous donations today by visiting our website:
www.fromwidowtowinner.com or sending to:

P.O. Box 12076
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A special heartfelt thanks to our monthly supporters:
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Updates on Community Outreaches

From Widow To Winner Projects International makes a determined effort to connect with the church and the community to help expand the Kingdom of God. The following results from 2014 reflect the heart of our ministry to obey God and His direction for being a blessing to the families of the world.

SALVATIONS - 116

TRACTS PASSED OUT - 558

COMMUNITY OUTREACHES - 10

WIDOWS SERVICED - 5

ORPHAN SUPPORT - 14

...continued from page 1, A Widow's Story, Pastor Christine Holmes

That's another story. I will simply say that most believers that go to heaven don't want to come back. My late husband and I learned that in a interview we did for our television program 9 months before he went home to be with the Lord. We interviewed a man that died and went to heaven for over 1 hour. He has a wonderful testimony his name is Dean Braxton and his testimony can be viewed on Sid Roth's program "Its Supernatural". I can truly say the resurrection service I had was an awesome service that provided opportunity for many that had lost love ones the opportunity to exercise their faith. ". I can truly say the resurrection service I had was an awesome service that provided opportunity for many that had lost love ones the opportunity to exercise their faith. It provided closure for many and created expectation and a hunger by many to be used by the Lord. There are many testimonies that have come out of this period of exercising of faith and what I call simply believing the word

of God and doing what Jesus said "raise the dead". One is that one of the members of our church after hearing teaching on being a first responder responded when someone knocked on her door one day. She received a knock on her door that someone was dying on the side of her house, she put her shoes on and went to the side of her house to find a young man who was stiff, blue and had no heartbeat. She laid hands on him, rebuked death and commanded life to come back into his body and He came back from the dead. The paramedics arrived after he came back from the dead and took him to the hospital. The next day our church member found out that he had overdosed on heroin. I thank God for Charlesetta, our church member and that she put action to her faith and as a result the young man is alive. today. It is my prayer that many more believers will believe what Jesus said. For these signs and more will follow those that believe.



From Widow To Winner Projects International

"Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow". Isaiah 1:17

Our Mission/Our Vision

From Widow To Winner is a 501(c)(3) faith-based organization with the mission to defend the cause of orphans and widows by sounding the alarm; that will wake up the masses and engage them in serious work towards the rescue of our most vulnerable

Our Vision is to build 2 orphanages and 2 widow centers in Ghana, West Africa and Chennai, India. We endeavor to build a center in the United States; where Emancipated Youth coming out of the foster care system will receive the proper support during their transition into adulthood. Our widow center will address the forgotten needs of widows as they pursue life after the death of their beloved.

WE HAVE SO MUCH APPRECIATION AND THANKFULNESS TO ALL OF OUR 2014 WALK-A-THON PARTICIPANTS AND SUPPORTERS! IT WAS YOUR SUPPORT THAT MADE OUR 1ST ANNUAL WALK-A-THON A GREAT SUCCESS! GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU RICHLY!

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Let Me Tell My Story – Destined For More

Marcellia Goodrich - Emancipated Youth



Marcellia Goodrich

Growing up I did not have what you would call an ideal childhood. My mother was on drugs from the time I was a baby and she was not in her right mind to take care of herself, let alone a child. I felt like my mother did not want me when she left me with anyone who would take care of me, usually a family member.

One day, when I was 10 years old, my family could not care for me anymore, so they called the Department of Social Services and I was placed in foster care. I stayed there until I aged out at 19. Life in foster care was very hard. I felt like the world was against me. I asked myself, "Why did this have to happen to me?" I would beat myself up and say that it was my fault I had to be there". I was separated from my brother and moved seven times. It was challenging because I never knew what new foster parents would think of me. I was living with strangers, and some of them acted like they cared when they did not. Some just saw me as a paycheck. There was no love.

One of my worst memories was coming out as a lesbian to my foster mom. I have been attracted to women since I was 11, but growing up, I was in denial about sexuality because I felt like my peers would judge me. When I was 17, I had my first relationship with a woman, and my foster mom at that time talked bad about me to her own family because of my preference. When I was a high school senior she said, "I am not going to pay for a gay prom". I took a job at a pizza place, so I could save and buy my own prom dress.

I had another foster mother who told me I would not amount to anything. I wanted to prove her wrong, so I set out to do well in school. That was the best revenge I could have. I also did not want to end up

like my mother. I knew that I had to do something better for myself and that I was destined for something bigger. I graduated from high school, and went onto college. It wasn't easy. Transitioning into adulthood from foster care was tough. I felt like I was left on my own. But I am making it. I have a fulltime job and I am going to be the first generation in my family to graduate from college. That is a big accomplishment for me. I also joined California Youth Connection (CYC). We advocate for current and former foster youth, working to make a better future for them. My hope is that when it comes time for other foster youth to attend college, they will not have the same struggles and worries I did. Since I have the opportunity to make a change for the better, I will. It is all about empowerment. I believe that in order for foster care to be a better place, social workers should not have heavy caseloads, and should do surprise visits. Foster parents should be evaluated quarterly, and children should be able to visit their siblings. Youth should also be informed of all of their rights. People need to know that foster youth need love and care just like other children. We may need a little more guidance, but we are still human.

To the youth who are in care now, I would tell them to continue your education. It will take you far in life. No matter what, life will have its ups and downs, but it is about the way you deal with those encounters that make you the person you are. Believe me, life does come back around. Hang in there. You are going to love the person you become.

The sky is not the limit – go past that. Always have an open mind and be open to experience new things. In the end, everything you have gone through will make you that much stronger.

When I was younger, I always wondered why my mother acted like she didn't want me. But as I got older, I came to realize that it was not that she did not want to be there for me – she just could not. She was an addict, and incapable of being the mother I needed. Once I understood this, I took responsibility for myself and my future, and it has made a big difference in my life.

"People need to know that foster youth need love and care just like other children".

