

# finalthoughts... from Paula

From Widow To Winner is partnering with The Dream Center in Los Angeles to provide housing for Emancipated Youth. 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!



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Volume 1 Issue 2

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Final Thoughts by Paula



"What About The Children", is the question Yolanda Adams is asking in her compelling song that tells the story of lost children in our world today. Ben Tankard makes the declaration in his profound rendition of "Sing For The Children"... "I watch the world, it breaks my heart, how many lives are thrown away, to change the world, we have to start with each of our children". Our children are practically 40% of our population, but they are definitely 100% of our future. Our obligation is to help them say "Yes To Success"! Not only do they need us, we need them! Who will pick up the baton to run and not get weary into the future? Who will carry the baton with the dignity, the respect, the wisdom to make desperate changes that our society needs?

Our orphans, our emancipated youth are valuable treasures that are being overlooked. Our society must wake up to the sound of the alarm on their behalf and do right, do justice, be advocates for the most vulnerable.

**Join From Widow To Winner on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at the Ronald Reagan Park in Anaheim Hills, CA from 9am-1pm.** We are walking, jogging and biking for the Winner's Walk-a-Thon to raise money for housing and ongoing services for our emancipated youth and **YES**, for our widows too. **We are asking you to participate in this important cause by volunteering to help with the preparation or signing up to walk, jog or bike or by donating gifts and money to the cause.**



coming soon >>>

## In The Next Issue

Let Me Tell My Story - Sarah Pickett Part 2  
Shoe Drive Update  
Winner's Walk-a-thon  
Commentary on Lisa Ling's Documentary on the U.S. Foster Care System  
A From Widow To Winner Story  
Update on 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday goal for souls

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)

From Widow To Winner-Debbie Wilson's Story



Ross and Debbie on their Wedding Day 7-10-1976



Ross and Debbie on their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 7-10-2006



Paula, Debbie and Diana (Debbie's sister) on the occasion of Debbie's water baptism 4-25-2014

ROSS and DEBBIE were married July 10, 1976 at the very young ages of 19 and 20. They were childhood friends that developed into a covenant relationship that lasted for 37 1/2 years.

IT would be a marriage of loyalty and devotion that would last until Ross said a tearful good-bye to his beloved Debbie on April 20, 2013. I met Debbie in October of 2013 and our lives quickly connected not only because of the losses of our beloved husbands but also because she is just a lovely person. She immediately knew I understood her pain without me having to say one word. I could hear Debbie's heart when it said, "I just want this pain to end, but it seems if that happens, it will be the end of him". From one widow to another, I could hear her heart saying, "If only you could be here. If only you could still feel my love for you. If only you didn't die. But you did and you're not here and I still love you."

Our discussions helped both of us to process our grief safely and honestly to lead us down the path of long-term healing. Each week when Debbie and I would meet, it was obvious we were going *From Widow To Winner*.

DEBBIE started reading books and very quickly she realized that God was doing something very different and very transforming in her heart. She began to read her Bible and realized she needed more of God. She not only started going to church, but she gave her heart to Jesus Christ, accepting Him as her personal Savior. And as the months went by, with her heart still hurting and thoughts of Ross never-ending, she pressed forward to a future filled with the Hope that God describes in Jeremiah 29-11, "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans for good and not evil, to give you a future and a hope".

On April 25, 2014, one year and five days after her beloved Ross's passing, Debbie took her obedience to Christ to the next level and was baptized in water at her church, Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier.

Today Debbie still meets with me and as we continue to peel back the layers of grief, we're happy to know that we are not alone in this journey.

**ONLY 'TIL DEATH DO US PART!**

## From Widow To Winner Projects International

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

Please make your generous donations today by mailing to:  
From Widow To Winner @ P.O. Box 12076, Jackson, MS 39216

A special heartfelt thanks to our monthly supporters:  
Fulfilled4Life Ministries (Pastor Ron and Lady Redelia Fowler),  
Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier (Pastor Ed and Lady Vanessa Smith),  
One in Christ Ministries (Pastor David and Lady Keisha Hughes)

Contact us at: 757-667-0056 Email: [singhymnstohim@yahoo.com](mailto:singhymnstohim@yahoo.com)  
[www.fromwidowtowinner.com](http://www.fromwidowtowinner.com)



## Our Founder's Birthday Celebration

Paula Bass, Founder and President of From Widow To Winner Projects International celebrated a very important milestone birthday on April 28th. Upon reaching this great milestone, the promise in God's Word according to Psalm 92:12-15, became Rhema to her, "The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green, To declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. Paula turned 65 years old and God has proven His faithfulness to her over and over again.

**Read below how God spoke to her in a dream to move forward in His unique design for the next chapter in her life.**

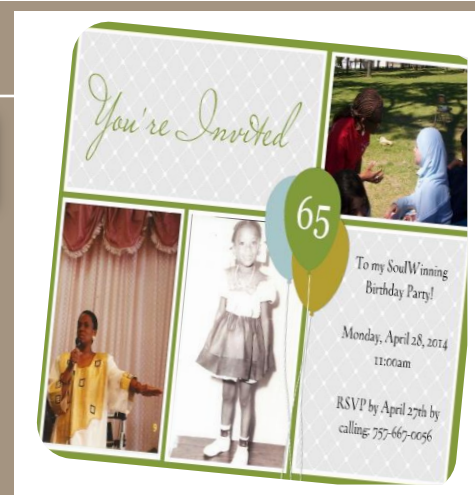
THE night of March 31, 2014, God showed me in a dream the very essence of Matthew 9:35-38. "And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest".

WALK with me as I describe what I saw. I found myself in the middle of a vineyard filled with fruit trees; luscious, beautiful fruit of all kinds. They looked as if they had been grown in heaven. But the fun part of seeing all this fruit was that they were so "low hanging"; that all I had to do was reach out and pick them, not reach up, but reach out and they fell into my hands. Sounds good, right? But look with me as I turned to my left and saw this fruit tree with a huge bunch of

beautiful grapes only to be covered in cobwebs. I looked and felt repelled; while at the same time wanting to go and wipe it away. My heart was grieved, so grieved and I began to cry. When I woke up, I was still crying and of course I asked God to help me understand.

He showed me that the harvest of souls is ripe for the picking, no hard work needed, just obedience to the Gospel. He showed me that the grapes with the cobwebs are souls that have been waiting to hear the undiluted Gospel of salvation and no one has shared or is sharing with them. Some have stony hearts and need to be set free. They are rotting on the vine and unless we reach out and pick them off for the Kingdom, they will be lost and go away into separation from God. And God showed me even more about that dream, but you get the picture.

SO, while I've been meditating on this dream and asking God how to respond, He showed me how I could use every opportunity to share the Gospel. I will be 65 this year and I've resolved that I want to win 65 people to Jesus Christ. I initially wanted to



Paula Bass

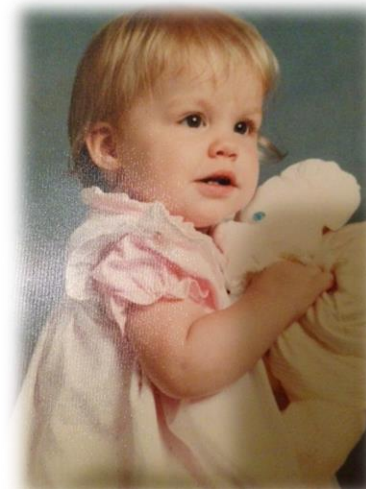
go to Israel for my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, but that didn't happen. I wanted to WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED on my birthday, but on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014, when I turn 65, my plan is to walk the WAY JESUS WALKED on my birthday.

I will take to the park on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and pass out tracts and flyers to invite people to share a birthday celebration with me on May 5, 2014. On that day, I will follow-up to share the Gospel and my birthday with those who come. I will decorate a table like a birthday party for the people, because it will be their new birthdays, when they say yes to JESUS! I'm inviting my friends and family to help me celebrate this wonderful day.

The location where I have chosen to do this is at the **Magic "Ervin" Johnson Park at 905 E. El Segundo Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90059**. Meet me there for this exciting time. This will be your birthday gift to me and the Kingdom of God.

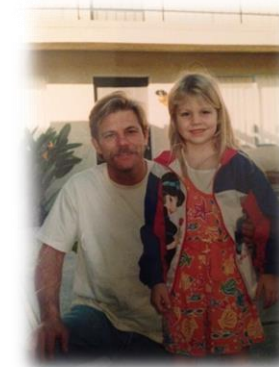
## Let Me Tell My Story Sarah Pickett-Emancipated Youth

Hello, my name is Sarah Pickett and I emancipated when I was 14 years old. Let's start from the beginning. My biological parents divorced when I



was a couple years old. My mom had full custody of me but my dad was able to see me whenever he was around and not in prison. My father was a very amazing, and loving man, he had a drug problem and that ran his life. He tried many times to become sober but just didn't have the support team he needed to do so. My mother remarried when I was about 5 years old to a man that, well let's just say was not a nice person. This man would beat me up and emotionally abuse me and my sisters and just really hated having the responsibility of children. My father hated him and wanted so badly to gain custody of me, my dad got sober and started to get his life on track. My father had a new wife as well and she was quite an evil woman. I remember one day I got a call from my Nana (dad's mom) and she informed me that my daddy was

in the hospital. I later found out that my dad's wife stabbed him in the ribs/lung and my dad was struggling for his life. Luckily, I can say that did not kill my dad, what did though is very traumatic and very heart breaking. A couple years go by and my dad is still fighting for a divorce from this woman and she just refuses to let go.



*On the night of July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1996 my dad had a sleep over planned for me and 2 of my step sisters. This night was so much fun; my dad was very much a child at heart. We played games, watched movies and he made us his specialty, burnt grilled cheese sandwiches. Well the time had come to go to bed and I remember lying in bed and hearing someone knock on the front door. I asked my dad, "who is it daddy?" He replied that it was his wife and to go to bed everything will be ok. I knew this was strange because my dad kept telling her she wasn't welcome here and she needed to leave also, she had a man with her that I had never met.*  
**...to be continued in next issue**

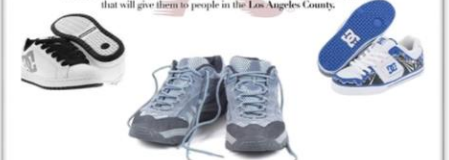
Volunteers are  
Happy People!

**Benefit those in need!**

Kim Foot & Ankle Presents...  
**17th Annual Shoe Drive**

**"No Shoeless Person in the World!"**

We are collecting new and used shoes and delivering them to local charities that will give them to people in the Los Angeles County.



get involved >>>

**CALLING ALL**

**HAPPY VOLUNTEERS!**

FWTW is partnering with Dr. Kim's Foot and Ankle Medical Center to help raise shoes for those in need. Help us make this a successful shoe drive to provide a piece of clothing that many of us take for granted...especially our beautiful women.

**Check out how you can HELP!**

- Assist with picking up shoes from various Long Beach/Lakewood/Los Alamitos areas
- Assist with set up for Big Donation Celebration on August 13, 2014
- Assist with distribution of shoes to charities at Donation Party
- Contact: Sarah Pickett at spickett98@gmail.com or call **(562) 426-2551**

