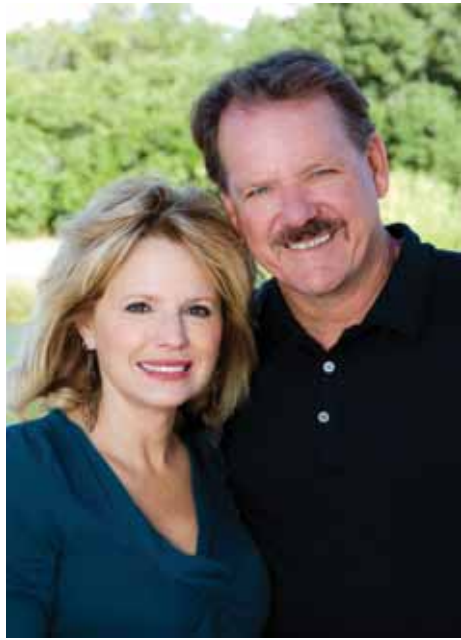


TWO PATHS LEADING TO ONE MINISTRY

Mel and Annie Goebel



Sisters in Christ, you have heard from us separately many times and now we are so pleased that God has called us to lead Daughters of Destiny together.

We would like to share with you the amazing way God brought us to serve in such a time as this.

We grew up miles apart but in similar situations; each with an alcoholic parent plus emotional and physical abuse in the home. Most kids enjoyed love and support while learning they had value. We feared personal harm while learning rejection and insecurity.

By our choices, we each left home, dropped out of school, and got into criminal activities. We took our first convictions as just part of our lives, neither seeking nor getting any input, encouragement, or help to change. Back out, we continued deeper into

the lies we believed about ourselves: worthless and unloved; nothing but a drug-addicted, wasted life existing for the next thrill.

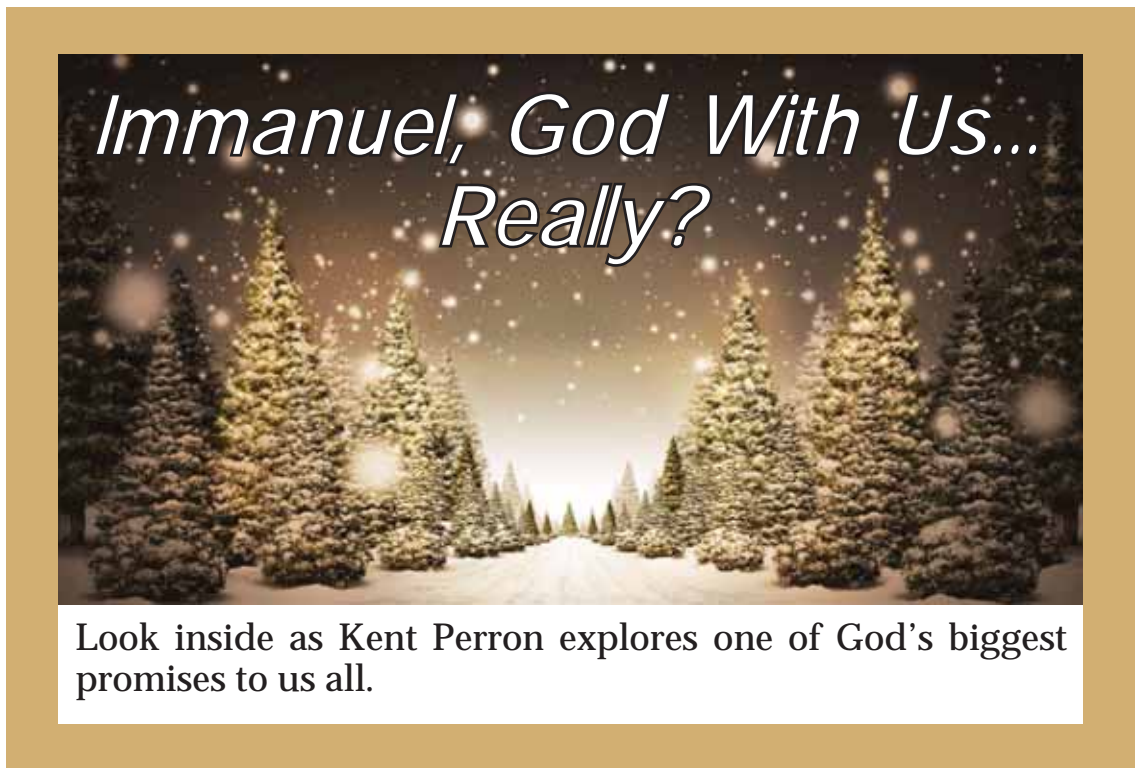
Our journeys to hope started in different situations but followed similar paths. The first step was recognizing our desperate need for help at the same time Jesus met us through the words and love of people who knew Him. Our choices forced the need. We faced our responsibility and chose to listen. Jesus walked through that open door, made real through His Word delivered by people. We were each on our way to a new destiny.

Believers on the outside came around us to teach, encourage, and guide us spiritually. We participated gladly while realizing their part—consistent,

inviting, ready—was a gift we did not deserve. We saw, touched, and heard God's grace through them. We each studied Scripture on our own, but needed guidance into the essential truths. Relationships emerged; ones that continue today! These early days in the faith were critical: breaking the bondage Satan held over our hearts and minds; re-directing our lives according to God's desires, not ours.

Upon release, each of us walked out of prison and into relationships with people of faith who accepted us personally, helped us socially, and mentored us spiritually. In the communities we chose to re-enter society, these people encouraged us to avoid people who misled us before, helped us get jobs, and find fellowship.

Two Paths, pg. 2



A Message from Deanna Allen

Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up... Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 GNB

Hello all my sisters. I wanted to take a moment to write and give you an update on my life. For those who have been reading The Daughters Journal for some time you know that I have been writing and producing the Journal every quarter for three years now. I didn't want it to seem like I just dropped off the face of the earth as I step back from this commitment. So I felt it was important

to share with you the season I am in now.

The Lord has blessed our family with our last child. For most of 2010 I was able to continue to travel around the country. I was even blessed to be able to keep a commitment to visit my amazing sisters in CCWF just days before our precious daughter Zoe joined us. What a special time that was.

As much as I would like to continue to keep such a rigorous schedule, this is a season for me to nestle in at home. Prison ministry is a vineyard I am extremely



passionate about so this is not an easy thing. The other day I was sharing with a friend that it would be ridiculous to sit and shout at the rain and wind when the weather changes, bringing in a new season. Instead, we simply accept that the new season has come; put away some of summer's clothing items for a later date and get ready for the ensuing cold. This is where I find myself today.

For the next several months I will stay closer to home visiting only my sisters in the California facilities. God willing I will be traveling out of state again later in 2011. Please know that I will be praying for each of you, that my heart will be yearning to spend precious time with you again, face to face, and "in great hands with the leadership" of Daughters of Destiny.

TWO PATHS (cont.)

With new direction for life, plus encouragement and help from mentors, we each began to give back to society in our own ways, still miles apart and unknown to each other.

Mel returned to the Nebraska State Penitentiary for ministry and then led Prison Fellowship in Nebraska and Colorado. He also completed a university degree in Organizational Communications.

Annie entered school in South Dakota, completed a GED, an undergraduate degree in Public Education and a graduate degree in Educational Curriculum and Technology. These helped her open doors to teach in public school.

Mel went to South Dakota to share his testimony and the vision of Daughters of Destiny. Annie was invited to attend and after hearing him share she realized she was a Daughter of Destiny.

Today, as husband and wife, transformed by Jesus Christ and given a new destiny, it is our honor to represent incarcerated ladies across the nation. We serve to empower hundreds of thousands of women of faith who together will stretch a net of God's grace across our country for women in prison and Daughters of Destiny released from prison.

Immanuel, God With Us...Really?

By Kent Perron

As humans, we have a finite understanding of what it means to be "with" someone. We tend to understand things such as 'they're here with us now,' or 'here today and gone tomorrow.' We understand someone being 'with us for the weekend,' or 'hanging out' with us. However, even in the greatest of earthly relationships we cannot easily comprehend the notion that someone is perpetually or continually with us.

Amazingly, this is what God has promised to us in the form of sending Jesus to the world. The prophecy was initially spoken by Isaiah promising a Savior for the people who would be called Immanuel. An angel of the Lord confirms the identity of Immanuel in the person of Jesus Christ in Matthew 1:23 which says, "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" (NKJ)

When God said he was sending Jesus to be "with us," the intent was that He would stay with us perpetually and continually. He does not leave when the going gets tough or when we become unpleasant to be with. The name Immanuel means that He will remain with us; through thick and thin, good times and bad; perpetually and continually throughout the trials,

troubles and darkest times of life.

It is a difficult concept to understand that there is someone who wants and desires to be with us all the time. In fact, the realization of Jesus being Immanuel is explained further in Hebrews 13:5,6 which encourages us, "Don't be obsessed with getting more material things. Be relaxed with what you have. Since God assured us, "I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you," we can boldly quote:

"God is there, ready to help; I'm fearless no matter what. Who or what can get to me?" (The Message Translation)

It is encouraging to know that not only does God want to be with us, He wants to stay with us and, in fact, refuses to leave us once we accept Him into our life. With Jesus, in the best of situations or in the darkest times of seeming hopelessness, we can boldly know and proclaim, 'God is here with me and refuses to leave me. He is ready to help me. I do not need to be afraid.'

God knows we need help. Even more than needing help, we need Him. People will come and go from our lives, promising to be with us forever. Yet, in the end, there is only one who can fulfill the promise to always be with us; that is Immanuel, Jesus Christ, God with us.

From Sarah, With Love

Dear Sisters in Christ, I want to send you this message of encouragement. I was once right where you are now. No matter how hard I tried I couldn't stop using. I hated who I was - whoever that was. So lost and broken. No matter where I went or how many drugs I did I was still alive. When I finally got busted and charged with 19 felonies, all 79 pounds of me. I was a skeleton in handcuffs with no hope. That was January 29th, 2007- I was relieved. And even though I felt like useless trash that society wanted to throw away, God saw something different. He met me there, and saved me.

Psalm 40:2 says, *"He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure."* The next verse goes on to say *"He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord."*

He plucked me up off that green mile I had been walking for the past thirteen years and set me somewhere safe from myself.

I began soaking in everything I could; the Bible, Christian books, church and whatever. I learned for the first time in my life who God was and what He intended for me to be; His Daughter and loved beyond all measure. With help of Christians who disciplined me, I went through all my issues one by one until I was healed. Today I live as a Daughter of Destiny, saved and transformed by the King of Kings! Just as I did, you have a special destiny in this life. One chosen and planned for you since before you were even born. Seek God in His Word and pray for how He would lead you to walk and He will never leave you.

-Sarah



"I want to send you this message of encouragement."

GOD'S BROKEN GIFTS

By Shelley Beach

I've always been sentimental about things that belonged to special people in my life. When my grandmother died, I inherited several pieces of pottery she'd used in her kitchen.

The pieces had been given away by banks and stores during the Depression – yellowish stoneware called Wattware, painted with apples and cherries.

I was proud of my Wattware milk pitcher and large serving bowl – and I displayed them on a shelf in my dining room. I used them for special occasions and often told my two children stories about their Swedish immigrant great-grandmother and the fabulous things she cooked and baked (unlike me—I even burn microwave popcorn).

One summer day our family was at a baseball game, and our six-year-old son Nate disappeared into the woods to play. People in our farming community often discarded household furniture and odds and ends from their basements and storage sheds at the edge of the woods. Kids loved to forage for treasures there, so my husband and I weren't concerned.

That evening after the game, Nate and his father disappeared into the garage. They hung out there for the next several evenings. A few days later, Nate came to me carrying a box wrapped by six-year-old hands. He held it up and offered it to me, his eyes glued to my face as they danced in anticipation. "It's not perfect, but I made it just for you, Mom."

I took off the lid and pulled out an exact replica of my grandmother's Wattware pitcher. But this pitcher had been shattered and glued back together with six-year-old fingers. Gaping holes were missing in several spots, and space was visible between wide cracks.

To my mother's eyes, it was the most perfect gift I'd ever received. A gift of love, crafted from my child's hands. Nate's gift immediately took the position of prominence in front of my grandmother's pitcher in the display cabinet. People often questioned me about it, asking how it came to be broken. My response was always the same. It wasn't broken at all. It was the most treasured piece of Wattware I owned – the perfect gift of love from my child's hands.

We often come to God thinking we need to bring our perfection, when all He asks is that we bring the brokenness of our lives offered in love. He sees us with a Father's heart – as treasured gifts, and His greatest joy is to heal our broken places and use us to show His love to the world. Often the broken places of our lives are the things God redeems through the work of His Son Jesus to show Himself the world.

Jesus Himself brought the greatest gift of love to the world when He allowed His brokenness to be used for us. We can be grateful this Christmas that God loves broken women, heals broken women, and calls broken women to be used as His gifts to bring hope to a lost world.

Health Tip

Exercise right where you are!

The good old squat is one of the best ways to build up your lower body. It can be done many different ways. You can target your bottom, thighs or hamstrings. If you want to target your bottom try doing jumping squats or squats with a wider stance. Make sure you warm up well to prevent injury to the muscles in your groin.

Change how you do the squat. For example, try changing the speed at which you pop up from the squat position. Try to do a certain amount in one minute and then the next time, beat that number. Push yourself to beat your personal best as this is the only way to progress with muscle building.

HOW to PRAY

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOW CAN YOU KNOW JESUS TODAY?

ADMIT your need for him.

Be willing to TURN from your sins.

BELIEVE that Jesus died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.

INVITE Jesus to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit.

TELL someone that you are a new creation in Christ!



GOD IS STILL WORKING By Carol Deblasis

When I think of the holidays, I think of good food and cooking yummy meals. Usually my kitchen is filled with the delicious aroma of a turkey in the oven, potatoes boiling on the stove and fresh veggies steaming away. When I am convinced that everything is perfectly done, I place it on the table for my family to enjoy! And, since I am the cook, only I know exactly when my meal is ready to serve.

This reminds me of Psalm 66:10, which says, "For You, O God, tested us; You refined us like silver." and that I am a fine delicacy that my Heavenly Father is refining or "cooking". The word refined means to purify from what is coarse and vulgar, and make elegant and cultured. So I figure that I am simmering away here in God's "crock-pot" and He is refining me until I am perfectly well done, and, like my yummy Christmas dinner, only He knows when I am ready to serve, because He measures in "seasons". Since there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven, only God knows how long to set my timer! After all, He is the Chef and food NEVER tells the preparer when it is fully cooked. When

was the last time a chicken you were baking in the oven, tapped on the glass and told you that it was fully baked? When did the veggies in your saucepan inform you that you could turn the heat off because they were perfectly cooked?

So why in the world do we think that we can stick our finger in God's face and instruct Him to turn down the heat, or to remove us from the pot or the refiner's fire? How can we possibly know how long a season is? Besides, it's nice to know that He loves us enough to make sure that we are exactly all that He wants us to be, and no longer coarse or vulgar. I don't think He wants us to go off "half-baked", do you?

Granted, your "crock-pot" or refining process this holiday is pretty warm, but be encouraged, baby girl: God is still cooking you! It may not sound like it, but that's really good news! He is not about to throw out this wonderful recipe that He has begun in your heart, and He desires you to be the woman of God He ordained you to be. Thankfully, He will do whatever it takes to get you from glory to glory, in spite of your past!

Since He will never leave or forsake you, you can happily bubble away here in His divine crock-pot and know that your latter days will be better than your former days, and that you are a delicacy to your Heavenly Father. Even though people have walked away and abandoned you, God will NEVER walk out. He desires to season and prepare you to be a vessel fit for His service, and a way for the world to taste and see that He is good!

So as you celebrate the birth of our Jesus this Christmas, remember to praise The One who sent His Son for your redemption, and keep in mind that 2011 is on the way. It promises to be a year filled to overflowing with God's goodness, grace, presence, blessings and forgiveness for you, your families and your loved ones. So Merry Christmas sweet, sweet sister. Remember that we are all out here interceding for you. We are praying that you are being transformed in Christ and embracing strong faith, because we know that walking with Jesus just gets better and better, no matter how high He turns up the heat! Besides, God can't do anything but be faithful!

That's His nature.

THE NEW LOOK OF DAUGHTERS OF DESTINY

I will transform the battered into a company of the elite. I will make a strong nation out of the long lost, A showcase exhibit of God's rule in action, As I rule from Mount Zion, from here to eternity. -Micah 4:7

You may have noticed the newspaper has a wonderful new look. We hope you like it. Here at Daughters of Destiny central we put our heads together and with much prayer and creativity are producing a fun and exciting new paper just for you.

There are several new articles that will be in each publication including a health tip and opportunity to give your heart to the Lord. This issue did not include the calendar of events. The calendar will begin again with our next newspaper. Please ask your chaplain or volunteer coordinator to contact us for an event at your facility in the near future. Also, we love to hear from you. If you have any questions or would like to share your testimony please write us.

Even though the newspaper look has changed, we will still give you inspirational articles to help you during such a time as this. It is no accident that God plucked you up and put you where you are. This is a time for you to meditate on His will for your life. Our hope is to provide words of wisdom from a variety of Godly counsel to encourage and guide you as you discover your Destiny and become a woman of godly beauty.

Stay Connected...

Join The Daughters Network

Name _____
 Inmate # _____ Housing Unit _____
 Date of Release (if known) _____
 Institution Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Home Address _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____



- Yes, I want to be a Daughter of Destiny
 I surrendered my heart to Jesus

Date _____

Tear off and mail to:
 Daughters of Destiny
 PO Box 7479
 Colorado Springs, CO 80933