
Woman of FAITH
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Times Are Tough but God Is In Control
Cocaine to Butterfly: The Power of Decision
LIFE IS A BOOMERANG!!!
More Than Enough
Meet singer,
Quianna Crute
A True Worshipper & Psalmist at heart

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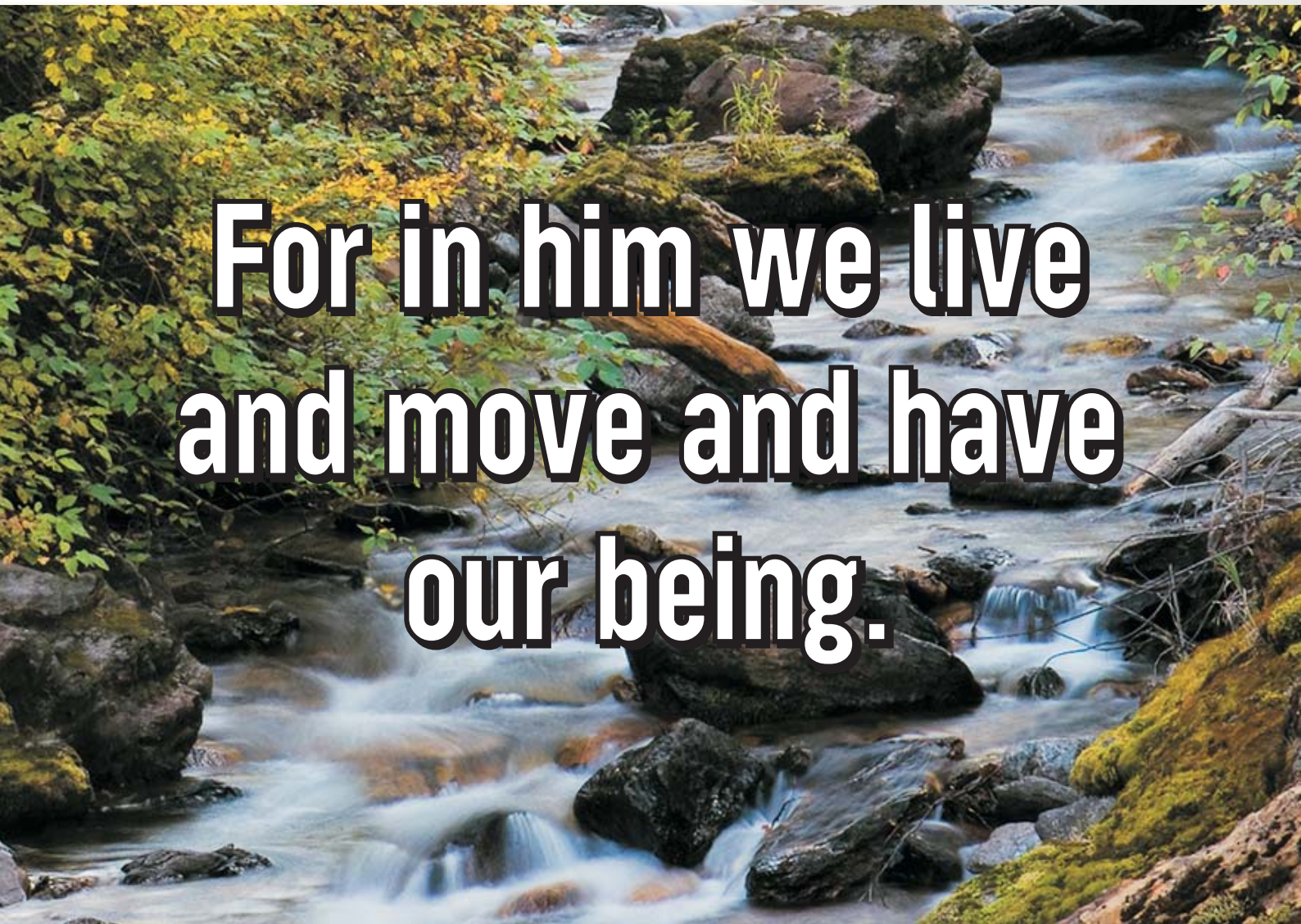

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THANK YOU FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Quianna, it was a pleasure and a honour to work with you on this cover issue. Thank you for your help, great conversations and for another new friend.

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THE EDITOR NOTE

Welcome dear Reader, to another Issue of Woman of Faith Magazine. I hope that I am not sounding biased when I say this is another great issue. The inspiring stories and the gifted talents of our writers is only Holy Spirit inspired. You will be left with awe at the words of wisdom, encouragement, boldness, and the unique ability of women of faith around the Globe who fully and without reservations, trust in God's Word and His promises.

Our stunning cover lady is **Quianna Crute,** worship leader and talented singer from Georgia, USA. It was a truly lovely experience working on this cover issue with her. A woman of serenity, humility and a heart for God, a passion to just love and to reach the lost and hurt through her music. I think for me, the most real thing about Quianna Crute, is when she said: I am a work in progress." The humility of this talented singer, sought after worship leader and Holy Spirit led Dancer, is so rare today. In her album **Created to Worship,** her song, **Touch My Heart,** brings me to tears. Quianna will be in South Africa this year. Details of her Worship Tour will be announced. Read her story in this issue and be inspired. To listen to her songs, here is the direct link. Quianna Crute

God is doing wonderful things in so many lives, He is changing lives, touching hearts and He is still in the miracle business. When I was a young girl, we used to sing this song, **"Reach out and touch the Lord as He passes by, you will find Him not too busy..."**



Today, don't be afraid to reach out to Jesus. No matter how impossible your situation may be or how inadequate you may feel, Jesus is only a prayer away. We are all work in progress, we are all learning, all of us are imperfect, but the best thing of it all is, we have a God who loves us unconditionally in our imperfections.

Until next time. Stay blessed... and don't forget to reach out and touch the Lord...

All my love

Liz

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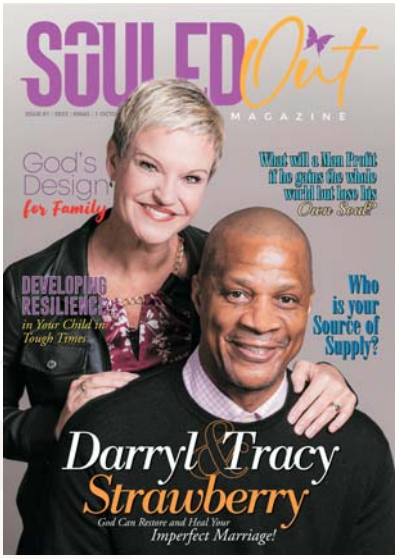



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Let Us Pray

MORE OF YOU, OH LORD.

Shemem Chetty

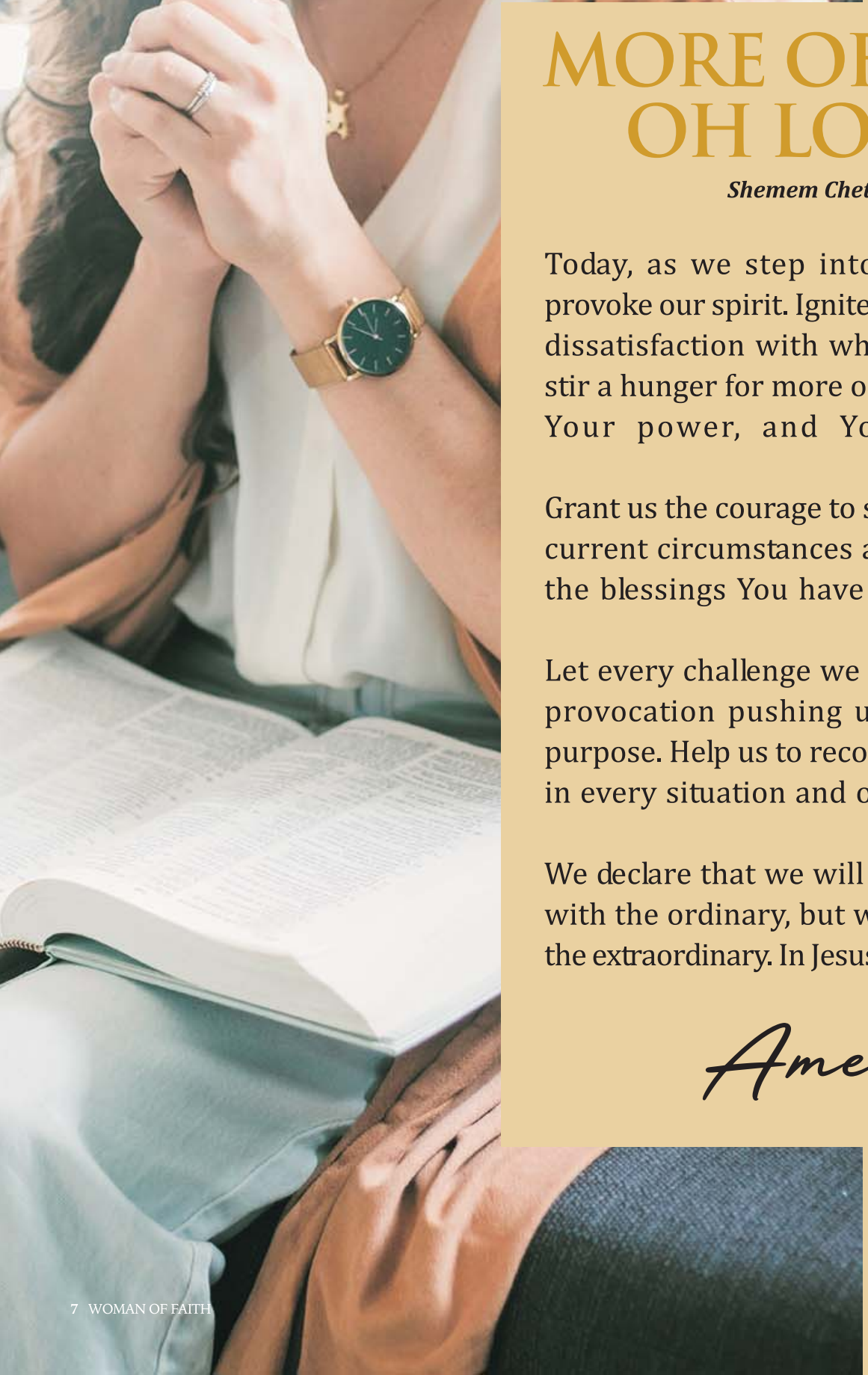
Today, as we step into this new day, provoke our spirit. Ignite within us a holy dissatisfaction with where we are and stir a hunger for more of Your presence, Your power, and Your promises.

Grant us the courage to seek beyond our current circumstances and to reach for the blessings You have in store for us.

Let every challenge we face be a divine provocation pushing us closer to our purpose. Help us to recognize Your hand in every situation and open new doors.

We declare that we will not be satisfied with the ordinary, but we will strive for the extraordinary. In Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen



Psalm 1

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law, he meditates day and night.

3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season. Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatsoever he does shall prosper.

4 The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.



Designing Women

Liz Naidoo



More than enough

Liz Naidoo

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Return, O Lord, how long? And let it repent thee concerning thy servants. O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days." – Psalm 90:12-14

We live in the most uncertain times, no one can account for their tomorrows. Have you made today count with Jesus Christ, are you certain of your salvation, should you experience a devastation, are you certain that God has your back? The Word of God says, teach us to number our days… make every day with God count. Repent, satisfy your soul with God, rejoice in God all your days, so that you can benefit from His mercy.

On 3 June, late Monday afternoon around 4:30pm, the province of KZN, South Africa, was hit by a tornado like storm, which is unheard of in South Africa. The residents of Tongaat, KZN, described the terror they felt, the absolute fear as many homes and buildings were destroyed. Roads were blocked by fallen trees and electricity cables damaged. At least seven people where declared dead, and more deaths reported in other areas.

I remember, sitting at my table at the time, working on this very magazine. I am petrified of thunderstorms, so I did what I would do in any uncomfortable situation. I prayed. I asked God for

protection and for His righteous right hand to protect me. It was a clash and a roar, fierce and petrifying. I was alone at home, all I had was Jesus, and for me that was more than enough. Little did I know that about 20km away from me, a tornado-like storm had severely ravaged a nearby town.

Every day when you wake up, do you seek the face of God? Do you apply His Word into your heart. If you do so diligently, His Word will guide you in all things, His wisdom will overshadow you, His love will satisfy you and His mercy over you will have no boundaries.

Psalm 91:1 says **"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High, will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty."** I so love these comforting words. Because I know that Jesus Christ is my all, He is the one that I lean onto, daily I seek Him, and I take comfort in Him; Almighty God leans forward and overshadows me. Just His Shadow. How powerful and comforting at the same time to be able to comprehend, that God Almighty, the great Creator of this earth, knows me, that I can find rest just in His Shadow.

Have you seen your Shadow? It's always bigger than you, so very daunting. Can you imagine how daunting the Shadow of God is around you? The enemy will not be able to harm you, he cannot even get close, because you are protected by God. Even if you go through the fires, you will come out strong, He will comfort and console you, He will make you strong, His edge of protection is like a seal around you, you will stronger than you ever thought possible, then you will know that God is more than enough.

Don't wait for tomorrow, start today, tomorrow may never come. Make today count with Jesus Christ, let God be more than enough.



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The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou will no despise.

Psalm 51:17



Times Are Tough but God Is In Control

Eljoh Hartzer

The sky is painted with glory at sunrise by His hands; yet the same sky is painted gray with the soot of war by human hands. It can be hard as a Christian to live in such contradiction. Even though we know that God is good; do we see Him in the midst of our day-to-day life?

Our idea of heaven can often be focused on going away and escaping our real-life struggles. But God promises to build His kingdom here on Earth, that means that He desires to walk with us through our real-life struggles. We don’t have to live in such duality between the holy and the ordinary.

“God is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last” (Rev. 22:13)

When we look at the world around us today, it can be easy to feel defeated and give up on hoping for a change. We buy into the idea that the past was good, and the present is bad - which is not true at all. As people we often take comfort in the safety of familiarity, we prefer the idea of the world as we knew it and when we were children or even generations ago. Times are also tough on a micro scale in our own lives. We all face stress daily, challenges in our relationships, finances, and health can weigh us down and cause so much negativity.

But any historian will be quick to tell us that, on a large scale, the world is getting better: less mortality, less inequality, less oppression, and the list goes on… an overwhelming hopelessness settles on us when we are facing such a tough time, and it can be easy to feel alone. In the letter to the Hebrews, chapter 11, we find a list of heroes throughout the whole Bible - People just like us who managed to have faith that God was in control and in the midst of their circumstances. Faith is defined as blind and confident hope. You have never known yourself as well as you do right at this moment; You have never been this mature before.

I've always wanted to be a writer, but I was never sure how I could change my career path to doing what I desired deep within myself. I didn't feel equipped or good enough. One day, in a moment of bravery, I joined a freelancing writing platform and applied for loads of jobs. I didn't get a single reply. But just as failure settled over me, I got an email about a writing job for a website that was called Journal Owl. I was unsure if I should do it, so I prayed and asked God to show me what to do. The next morning an owl moved into the big palm tree that was right outside my apartment. He stayed there for a few weeks as I completed my first job as a writer, watching over me.

Perhaps you have also been struggling to see that God is in control. Take heart and know that He who never changes has walked with many people like yourself before. You can have faith and invite Him into every single struggle that you are facing.

There are owls hidden in palm trees for those who choose to have faith.



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Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment

Matthew 22: 37-38



Meet singer, Quianna Crute

A True Worshipper & Psalmist at heart

with Liz Naidoo



"I am not a performer, I have a calling from God and a mission and purpose to use my voice for His Glory," said Quianna Crute, on our recent zoom chat.

Born and raised in Orangeburg, South Carolina, Quianna was influenced by many genres of music but as she got older, she gravitated towards gospel. Now residing outside of Atlanta, Georgia, she is a sought-after Praise and Worship leader, Choreographer and Dancer. She began to infuse her love for God into her dance and music, creating an atmosphere for people to use their gifts to usher in the presence of God and His glory.

In her debut album, "Created to Worship", Quianna Crute creates a yoke-breaking, deliverance-inducing musical worship experience. The first single, "My Love Letter" is just that... a powerful praise and worship composition that exposes Quianna's heart for God in its rawest and most intimate state. Her last single, "Created to Worship" was a revelation of liberty to express true worship and deflect self-glory to His glory. Quianna's second studio album entitled, "I Am Your Music", is a deeper expression of her love for God with its first single, "I Am Your Music" coming soon.

"I want my concerts to be the place where people come to get a message through the music that brings life to the dying, hope to the hopeless, and renewed faith to people who are on the brink of giving up on God." Said Quianna, who herself has been on the brink of giving up, having gone through extreme sickness and multiple surgeries. Quianna has experienced the taste of God's healing powers and understands the depth of His love. She wants others to experience that merciful goodness. When doctors told her that she was operating on 50% of her voice and she thought she would never be able to sing without being in agony and her voice going out, God



Quianna Crute, Worship Leader and Singer

restored her with a powerful voice which she's determined to only use to bring Him Glory. "I want to see people on their knees, arms and hands lifted, purging, and crying out to Him... everyone on one accord worshipping and praising the true star, Jesus Christ." Here is a woman who has tasted of the goodness of the Lord, experienced His holy presence and like the woman at the well, she was not prepared to keep it to herself, but to let everyone know, likewise, Quianna Crute has a passion for fulfilling her God-given mandate to reach out to the lost and hurt through her concerts.

Kingdom Reign, https://kingdomreign.life a Christian promotions company based in Johannesburg, South Africa have collaborated with the Psalms Group / Virgin https://psalmsgroup.com/ to host this amazing worship singer in 2024 on a South African Tour. Details for the upcoming tour will be advertised soon.

Let's get to know QUIANNA CRUTE. Woman of Faith Magazine asked a few questions to get to know this talented Artist.

1.What is the one thing that you would like your audience/public to know about Quianna Crute the person?

"The one thing I want my audience to know about me is that I am saved but still a work in progress. I don't want people to see a perfect person; instead, I want them to see someone who is actively fighting to maintain her relationship with the person she loves, Jesus Christ."

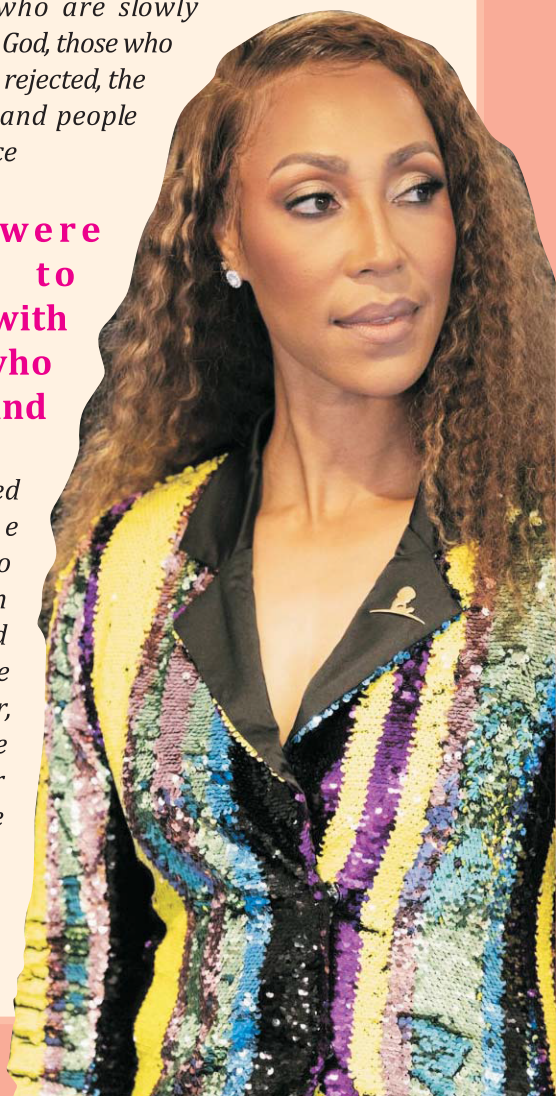
2.How would you describe the music you sing, and what is your main target audience focus and why?

I describe my music as pure worship. When I think of my music, I don't consider a specific genre or put my musicality in a box. I am a movement of freedom in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit guides me and gives me downloads to create my music; I only amplify what He gives me.

My main target audience is people who are broken in different ways, whether mentally or spiritually. I want my music to help those who are in bondage, those who are slowly turning away from God, those who have given up; the rejected, the hurting, the lost, and people seeking deliverance

3.If you were presented to collaborate with any artist, who would it be and why?

If I were presented with the opportunity to collaborate with any artist, it would be Moses Bliss. He is a true worshiper, and together, we can wage war against the enemy's camp with our music.

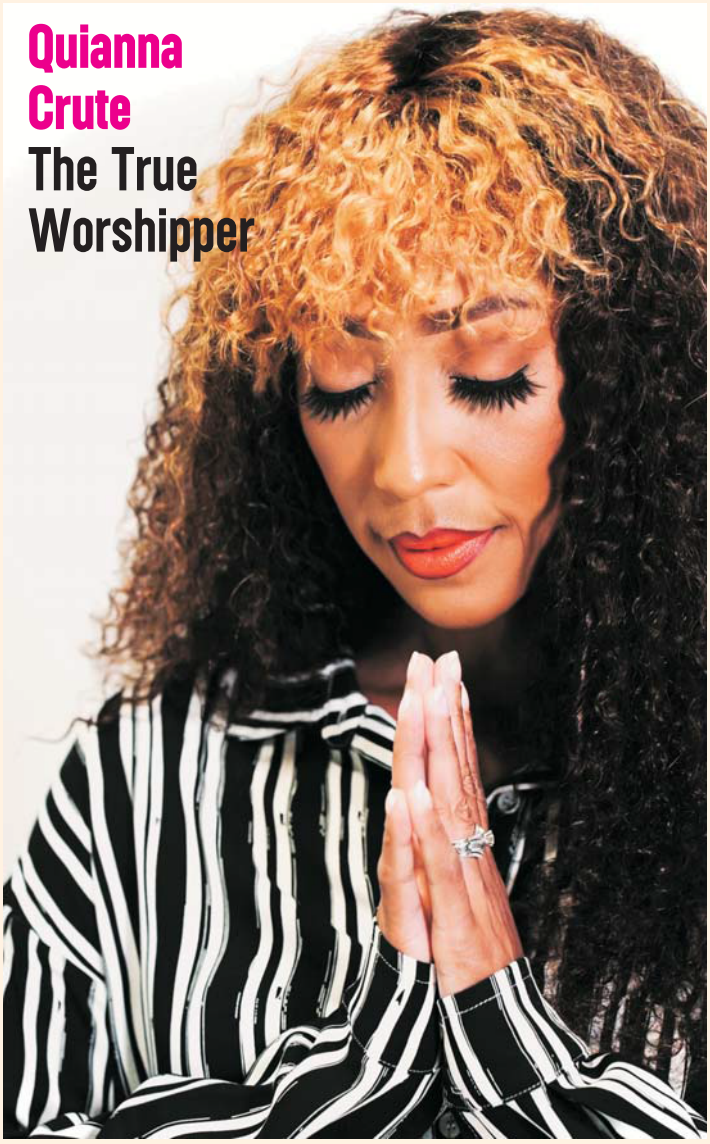


4.If you could change anything about the gospel music industry, what will it be and why?

If I could change anything about the gospel music industry, I would make it a criterion that before you are accepted into the genre as a singer, you should be saved and have gone through some deliverance. You should also have a Apostle and/or a Pastor over you because accountability is the key to growth. You would have to be ministry focused, not performance. This is important because, when you enter the gospel industry without sincerity, the spiritual impact on others is serious. It's important to understand that when you are a singer for the Lord, you are considered Frontline. Everything in you when you sing spews off into the congregation. Living a life pleasing to God is Paramount. If you are not, you damage God's people. At the judgment, you will be accountable for the people you damaged, and their blood will be required of you.

5.Do you have a special message for our readers?

This world is full of people who will tell you what you can't do and what you are not. You are going to hear a lot of negative voices. Make sure that none of the negative voices you are hearing are your own voice. The Bible says that you are a winner, so you must encourage yourself in the Lord daily. As long as you speak the Word over yourself, nothing will be impossible.





Listen to music by Quianna Crute on the links below.
https://www.quiannacrute.com/
https://genius.com/artists/Quianna-crute/songs

Quianna Crute – Created to Worship

QUIANNA CRUTE: SINGLES











You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You.

Isaiah 26:3

LIFE IS A BOOMERANG!!!

Pastor Julie Ramiah

Whoever digs a pit will fall into it; if someone rolls a stone, it will roll back on them. *Proverbs 26:27*

"If you set a trap for others, you will get caught in it yourself." Julie Ramiah

Whatever you set out to do, be it positive or negative, will come back to you. Sowing and reaping is a principle of life.

In the following scripture Solomon warns that those who plot to hurt others and damage their character and reputation can expect to pay the price for their evil intent. Proverbs 26:27 "If you set a trap for others, you will get caught in it yourself. If you roll a boulder down on others, it will crush you instead.

Malicious and harmful intentions always come with consequences. Just as good intentions produce results that you embrace and enjoy, bad intentions have consequences you cannot escape. God in His sovereignty has a way of balancing the books.

May God help us never to deliberately hurt, harm or injure others with our words or actions. Remember what goes around comes around. Let your life boomerang for good not for evil.





Tressa

www.youtube.com/@tressalemky



Shaken, But Not Shattered

Tressa Lemky

I'm pretty sure most of us have had an unexpected situation happen that resulted in our plans suddenly changing. Moments where we had to readjust, be flexible or accept the disappointment of a cancelled event.

I remember thinking for months that I was going to be modelling in one of the largest shows in our city when just six hours beforehand, the entire event was cancelled. So instead of getting ready for the show, I found myself in a grocery store stocking up on food because a "global" lockdown was eminent.

Another example was when without warning my husband could not fly home from a business trip after an unthinkable terrorist attack. As a result every flight in Canada and the USA was suddenly grounded. Both situations were unprecedented and immediately changed our plans.

When things like this happen, I usually find myself immediately trying to find the good in the midst of whatever is going on. Thinking of how things could have been worse has always helped me navigate emotionally and mentally through pretty much anything. Most of the time I have been able to adjust my thoughts and choose to focus on the positive.

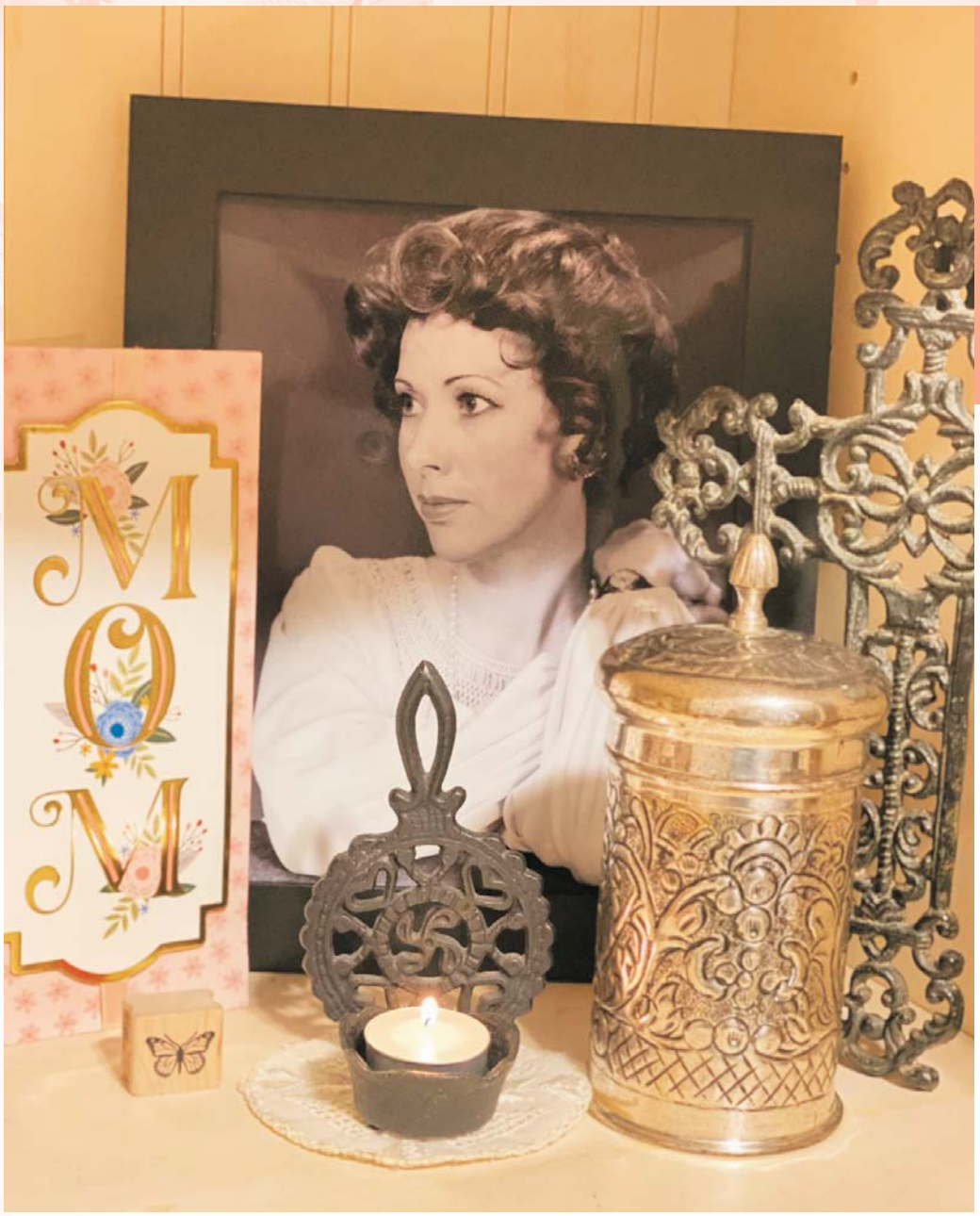
Recently however, I had a situation that wasn't quite so easy to do that. You see, just over eight weeks ago I had a phone call that not only changed my afternoon plans but my life permanently in a way that I never dreamed of or was ready for.

It was 2:07 PM, Thursday, March 28th, 2024, and my phone rang. As I answered all I heard was my younger sister's voice say, "she's gone - she's gone- Mom's gone!"

This is still very fresh for me but the reason I am sharing it is because I want to be open and transparent. So honestly over the last few weeks my emotions of grief and sadness have been overwhelming at times to the point where I felt stuck.

My heart is broken and the disbelief that this is my new reality is the hardest part of it. There was no warning, and it was so sudden and quick that none of us could say goodbye. That is a deep sadness I will have forever but despite that truth, I am still filled with hope.

Hope, because my mom loved Jesus and I know she is with Him. Hope also, because I remember that she is the one who took my brother John, sister Jennifer and I to church. She is the one who instilled in us,



"My precious mom Joycie. So grateful that she loved me unconditionally and always told me I could do anything. I miss her so much."

not only by words, but actions, the importance of God's Word and having a personal relationship with Him.

She used to tell us that there was no one that loved us more than God and that we could always go to Him no matter how much we may have sinned.

I remember one time in particular saying to her that I had messed up so badly I just couldn't go to God, but it was my mom that immediately said, "Oh my goodness honey, God is the first place you need to turn to!"

I am also grateful that despite the pain our family is going through we are closer than ever. It may be true we have been shaken but we are not shattered. It may also be true that we are a little wobbly emotionally right now, but because we are staying connected and praying for one another, we will get through this together.

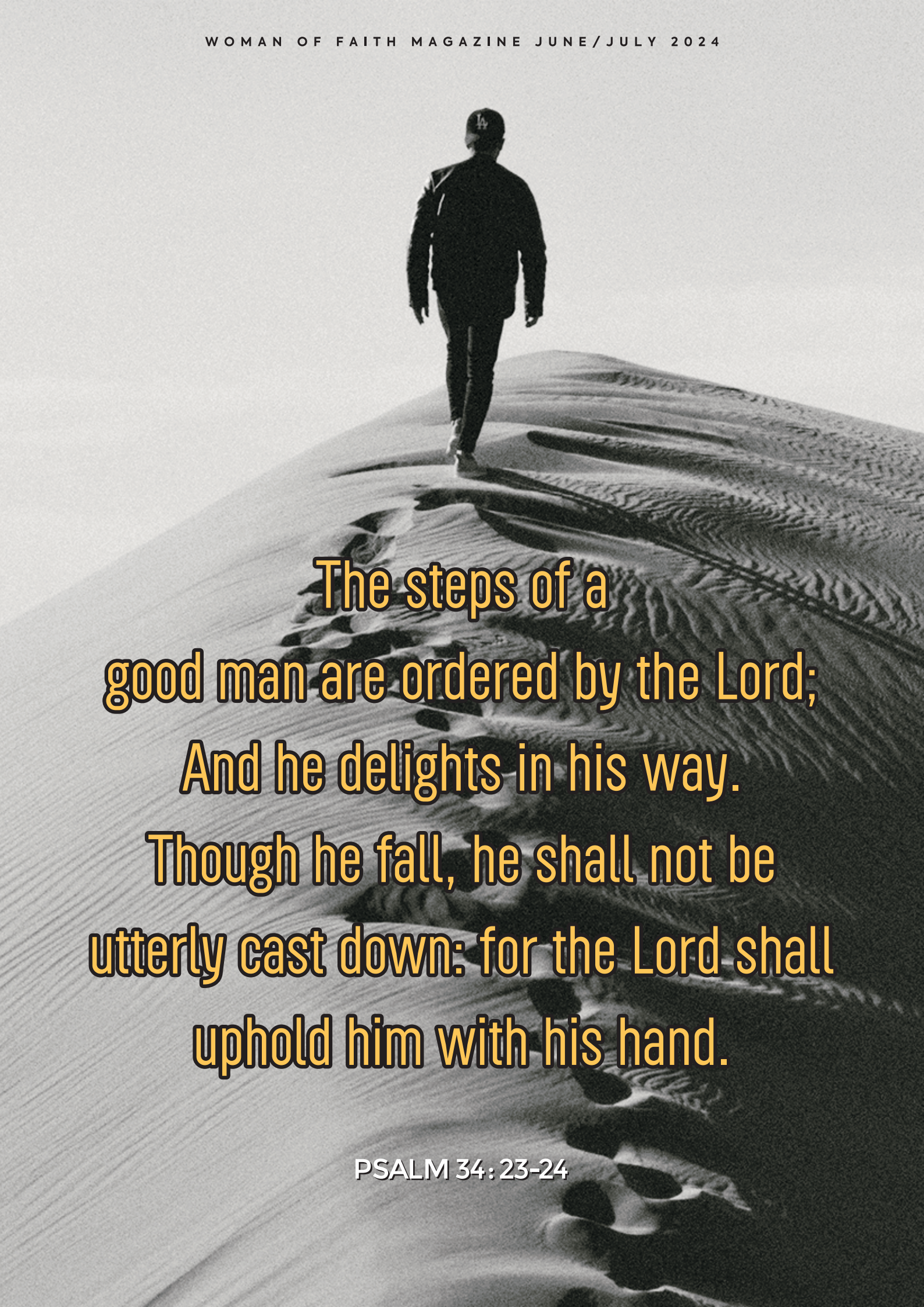
So precious Woman of Faith if you are feeling heartache or despair over a situation, I want to encourage you to release it to God and trust that the Lord will bring you peace and restoration.

I want to encourage you to have a daily prayer time and reading of His Word. It is because of Him that we can all have eternal hope and joy despite the circumstances.

One of my favourite verses is found in Romans 8:28 where it reads, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those that love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

So despite my heartache, I am trusting that God's timing is perfect. He is never late or early and I believe that all things will work together for His glory and His good. It is because of that verse that I can have hope for the future and know that even this can be used for His glory.

My prayer for you is that you will be ready for whatever comes into your life, knowing that God is in control and when you rest in His promises and hold onto His goodness, you will not be shattered, despite being shaken.



The steps of a
good man are ordered by the Lord;
And he delights in his way.
Though he fall, he shall not be
utterly cast down: for the Lord shall
uphold him with his hand.

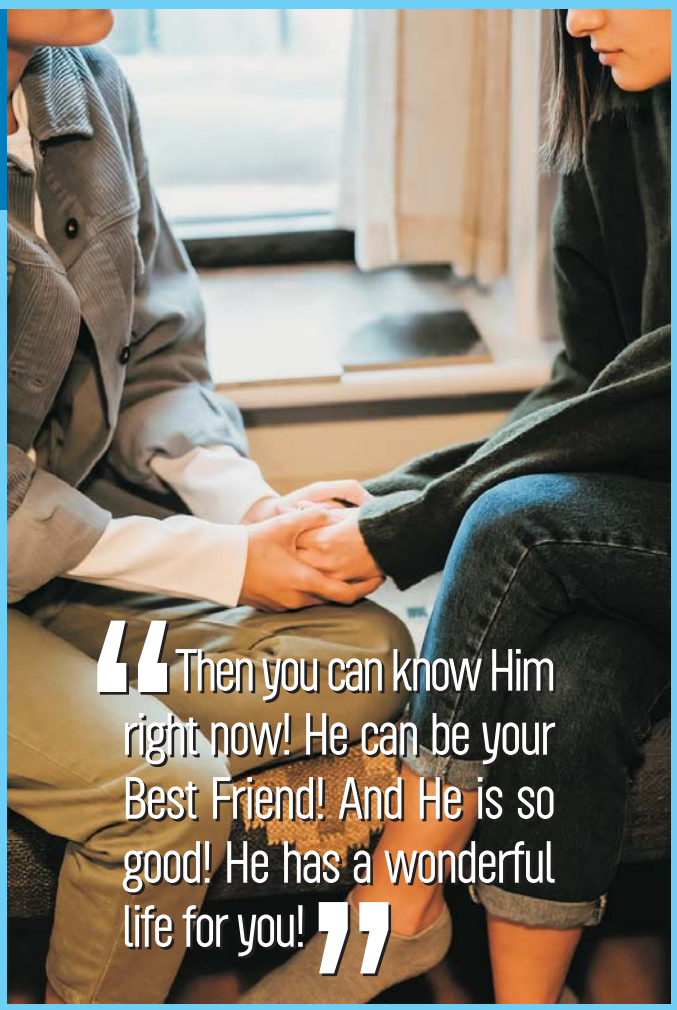
PSALM 34: 23-24

Cocaine to Butterfly

The Power of Decision

Tonja Taylor

(This is a true story and names have been changed, but names are the only thing that have been changed!)



Two days before I met Darlene, she decided to give up cocaine—for good--and the LORD met her where she was and started working mightily in her life.

When I went to the library that morning, I wasn't thinking about a divine appointment! I got out of my car and saw Darlene walk up over the hill, but really didn't think much about it; there were people there often from the homeless shelter next door.

We happened to get to the sidewalk at the same time, so I asked her how she was doing. "Not too good," she said, and I sensed a true heaviness in her.

I looked at her. "Do you have a loving church family praying for you?"

She shook her head. "I got out of jail in October and have been sleeping wherever I can since then."

It didn't matter about her past. I felt she was telling me the truth. What mattered was now, and but for the grace of God, I could have been her.

I turned to her and said, "Do you know the LORD Jesus Christ as your Savior?" And she was honest. "No..."

I recognized what God was doing. "Then you can know Him right now! He can be your Best Friend! And He is so good! He has a wonderful life for you!"

I led her in prayer and she, crying, received the LORD!

Still being cautious because the enemy attempts to deceive, I was on high alert, listening in my spirit for any warning from the Holy Spirit.

I didn't get one, so I proceeded. "Have you not been able to get into the shelter?" I knew the managers were kind Christians because my husband and I had ministered there every month for years.

I had a slight dart of fear, wondering what she'd done and why she couldn't get in. But I knew that fear was from the enemy, so I ignored it. My mighty God had my back. Through the blood of Jesus, I had a covenant of protection with Him.

"Why can't you get into the shelter?" I asked again.

"I don't have my ID card. But I can get one if I can just get to the Department of Finance and



Administration. They have my records."

"So, you don't have a job, or a husband?"

"No." And she held up a loaf of bread. "The Friendship Center feeds me every day."

I hesitated. We had cut up all our credit cards a couple years before, had made a vow not to borrow any more money from anyone, and were radically attacking every debt in our lives while we continued to tithe and give to various ministries. But I made the decision to trust God to guide me and to supply. "I don't carry cash or a checkbook," I told her. "But I have two quarters to call my church and see if they can help. How much do you need?"

"It's just $15 to get my ID card," she said. And, again still checking with the Holy Spirit and feeling peace, as well as being surprised at the very low fee, I called my church. I queried them about programs, not knowing if we had any in place yet, although I knew it was a goal. And I asked them to pray. The LORD had orchestrated this whole thing, and my pastor was there, and he and his daughter said they would cover me. That reassured me even more.

I put down the phone and told her, "Tell you what. I believe my husband and I can help you. But I have a few things to do. Meet me here at 2:00. I WILL be back."

She hugged me and said, "Okay, I believe you."

"Some of us ARE sincere," I told her.

I finished my other errands and went home. And just like someone enjoying giving at Christmas, I went around the house, gathering things for her, i.e., a well-used Bible that my husband had just replaced for my birthday, personal items, my beloved battery-operated radio, even a butterfly ornament that I'd felt strongly should not be packed up with the Christmas tree—but should be kept out to remind me that this was my year of transformation. I wanted to keep it, but believed it would mean a lot to her, so I made the decision to give it to my new sister in Christ.

After all, this was also the year of transformation for Darlene!

"Thank You, Lord. You bless us to bless others!" I told Him. We Covenant people are so very wealthy with the goodness of God!

I packed some chocolate chip cookies that I'd made the day before and put in some other snacks and goodies as well. I was tickled to give this to her, and thought, If I'm this excited to help rescue and restore someone, and to give to her—when I don't even know her—then how much more is God eager to give and bless and rescue and restore, and He knows all about us, but loves us anyway!

We got in the car, and I could tell she was nervous. She had also had to make the decision to trust, and I was glad she did. It may have been out of a sense of desperation, but sometimes that's what it may take for us to make necessary changes.

We drove to the finance and administration office, just a few blocks away. Again, I knew the city buses ran close enough, and she could have walked. But I also knew this was my assignment, to help Darlene be rescued and on the road to restoration.

When we walked in, one of the clerks whom I'd met a few weeks before asked, "Can I help you?" I pointed

to Darlene and said, "I'm here to help her."

Darlene gave the information needed to get her card, and I talked to some of the other personnel, most of whom I'd known for years. I invited one to my church again and testified about how the LORD had recently instantly healed my neck in a service, and how the LORD had healed another friend of mine years ago of a very painful back condition.

Shortly, Darlene turned to me and said, "It will just be $5!" I believe that small price was the favor of God too. I paid for the card, then made the decision to give the other $10 to her, for I'd thought that the price would be $15 for the card anyway. Darlene just looked at me, like I'd given her a thousand bucks, and said, "Really?!"

My heart ached. I wish I'd had a thousand dollars to give her, and I knew I felt a very slight part of what our tender Father God, awesome in His unfailing mercy and love, feels for each of us. And as much as He gives, He wants to give more.

Then again, I was more blessed than she, because I had made the decision to work with Him, so that He could give her the most priceless gift of all—eternal life. And truly, the little bit of time and money and possessions I had shared with her were nothing, nothing, nothing at all, compared to Him giving His life for hers!

How gloriously humble and awesomely, sacrificially, completely IN LOVE with us is our Heavenly Father God, who pities us, Who is so eager to deliver us, to cover us, to restore and bless us!

The LORD blessed us, and the clerk found Darlene's information. She went over to get her photo made, and as I smiled at her, I announced to a woman who had just come in, "Darlene just received the LORD Jesus Christ today!" I didn't know if the woman was a believer or not, but she must have been, because she beamed at us.

"I can't believe I got my ID card!" Darlene said, as we left. And I praised the LORD for His favor.

We headed to the shelter, and the clerk told us there were no beds available for women. "Show us what to do, LORD," I whispered. I made the decision to wait on the LORD and trust Him to work on our behalf.

Meanwhile, one of the men who helped run the desk knew me, gave Darlene an application. "Can I put you down as my emergency contact?" she asked.

I made the decision to continue to trust the LORD. "Yes. Put me down as a friend. And here's my phone number, but please don't give it out; it's private."

"Yes ma'am," she said. And I knew in my heart that she would keep her word.

A couple minutes later, Darlene whispered to me, "Should I put on there about me doing cocaine, even two days ago? But I haven't done it since then."

"Yes, tell everything. Tell the truth," I told her. "I believe being honest will help."

Meanwhile, I chatted with the gentleman that had given her the application. "You know, none of us can judge another, for every human is born with a criminal record—until the blood of Jesus washes it away!" He nodded, and I could tell that he hadn't thought of it that way before.

She signed the application and waited. I believe she made the decision to trust in the LORD's mercy and goodness.

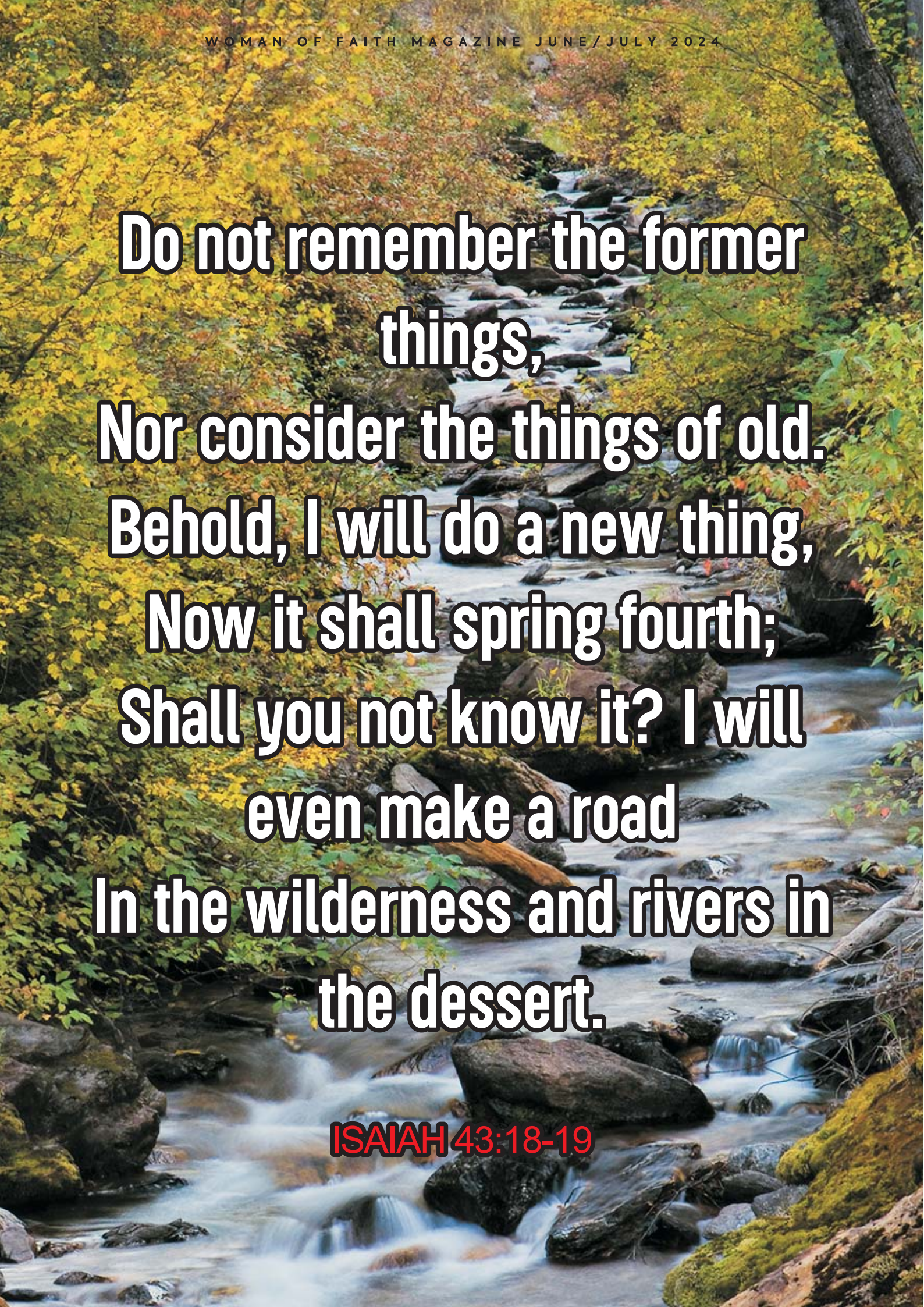
Then the main manager who knew my husband and I heard my voice, stuck her head out of the office, winked at me and said, "Just a minute."

She rearranged things—God is The Rearranger! —for Darlene to have a bed. I immediately had Darlene raise her hands to Heaven with me and repeat after me, "Thank You LORD Jesus for letting me get into the shelter!"

Then I led Darlene outside and prayed with her. I led her to renounce all of satan's works in her life in Jesus' name and ask Jesus to help her be strong and get to know Him. I told her that asking Jesus into her heart was the BEST thing she'd ever done, and that He had a wonderful plan for her life, and that it would get much better from here.

Darlene was amazed at how He moved for her at the shelter and otherwise. She'd made the decision two days earlier to give up cocaine, and I believe the LORD honored her desire for a new life--and sent someone to introduce her to JESUS, the TRUE LIFE!

She had made the wisest decision of her life to call upon the holy LORD of Heaven and earth Who is Love, and He--Who had already made the decision to rescue and restore her over 2000 years ago--answered.


Do not remember the former things,
Nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I will do a new thing,
Now it shall spring fourth;
Shall you not know it? I will even make a road
In the wilderness and rivers in the dessert.
ISAIAH 43:18-19

Those Idols In Your Heart

Dinora Garza

I asked the Lord, "Please Lord, let me see your glory, so I can share it with my brothers and sisters." and He answered me: "Take away those idols in your heart, so you can clearly see Me."

Sharing with you what God has done for me this morning, is as personal as it gets. I want you to know that my relationship with Him hasn't flourished because of something I did. It has happened because He has determined it so. This morning, through His Word, the Lord touched the deepest part of my soul to make me understand there are hidden idols in my heart, and if I really want to know Him, those idols will have to go.

But, what's an idol? It is anything that takes God's place in our lives and by which we obtain the joy we ought to get only from God. Our car, home, health, spouse, job, hobby, talents and even our own lives. John Piper puts it this simple:
"Whatever you find the most joy in, that's your god." (Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.")

We'll never be able to behold the beauty of God in all His grandeur, while our idols obscure our spiritual vision. A man will never love his wife deeply while he has another woman who diverts his desire and steals his attention. We seem to think that what doesn't work in this world, somehow will work with God.

When we consider the value of the things we prefer instead of God, we cannot but feel ashamed of



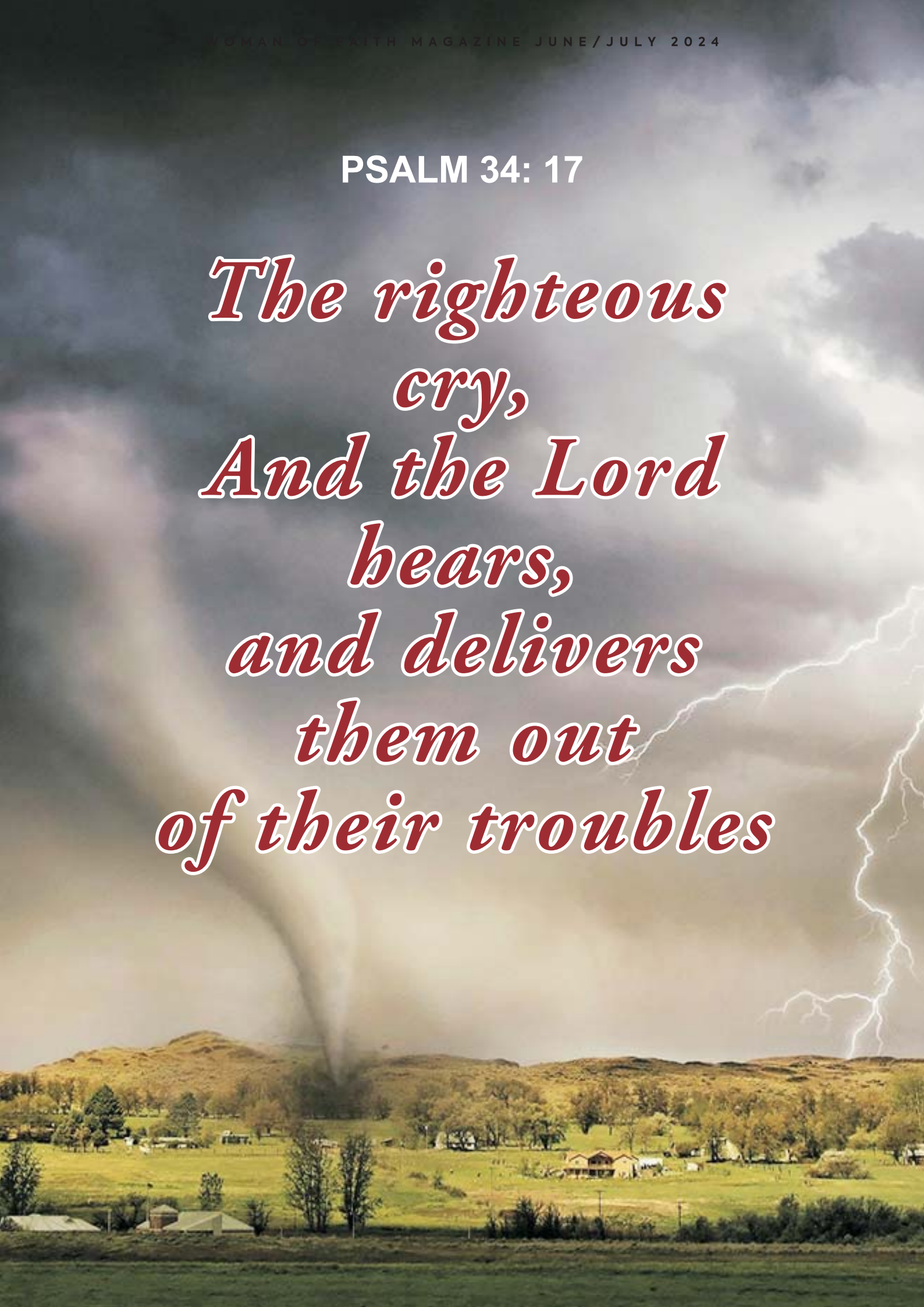
ourselves! Is money more satisfying than God? Is it worthy to occupy your mind on your health instead of on the things of God? Are your children of higher value than the Lord? What are all the treasures of the world compared with Almighty God? How absurd is our love for things, when compared with the majesty and infinite worth of the eternal God! How grave is our contempt toward God! How great is our sin!

This morning, I have taken out my idols and put them before God, profoundly ashamed of myself. I've asked Him to take them all and not let them take hold of my heart again. I've declared myself poor, dispossessed, because not even my life is mine. I've come before His presence with no more than the cross of my Savior and a repented heart, willing to find in Him and only in Him my comfort, my strength, my hope, my peace, and my joy...

"Whatever you find the most joy in, that is your God." Who or what is your god? Is it worth keeping, even when it alienates you from the true God?



"How absurd is our love for things, when compared with the majesty and infinite worth of the eternal God!"



PSALM 34: 17

The righteous cry, And the Lord hears, and delivers them out of their troubles

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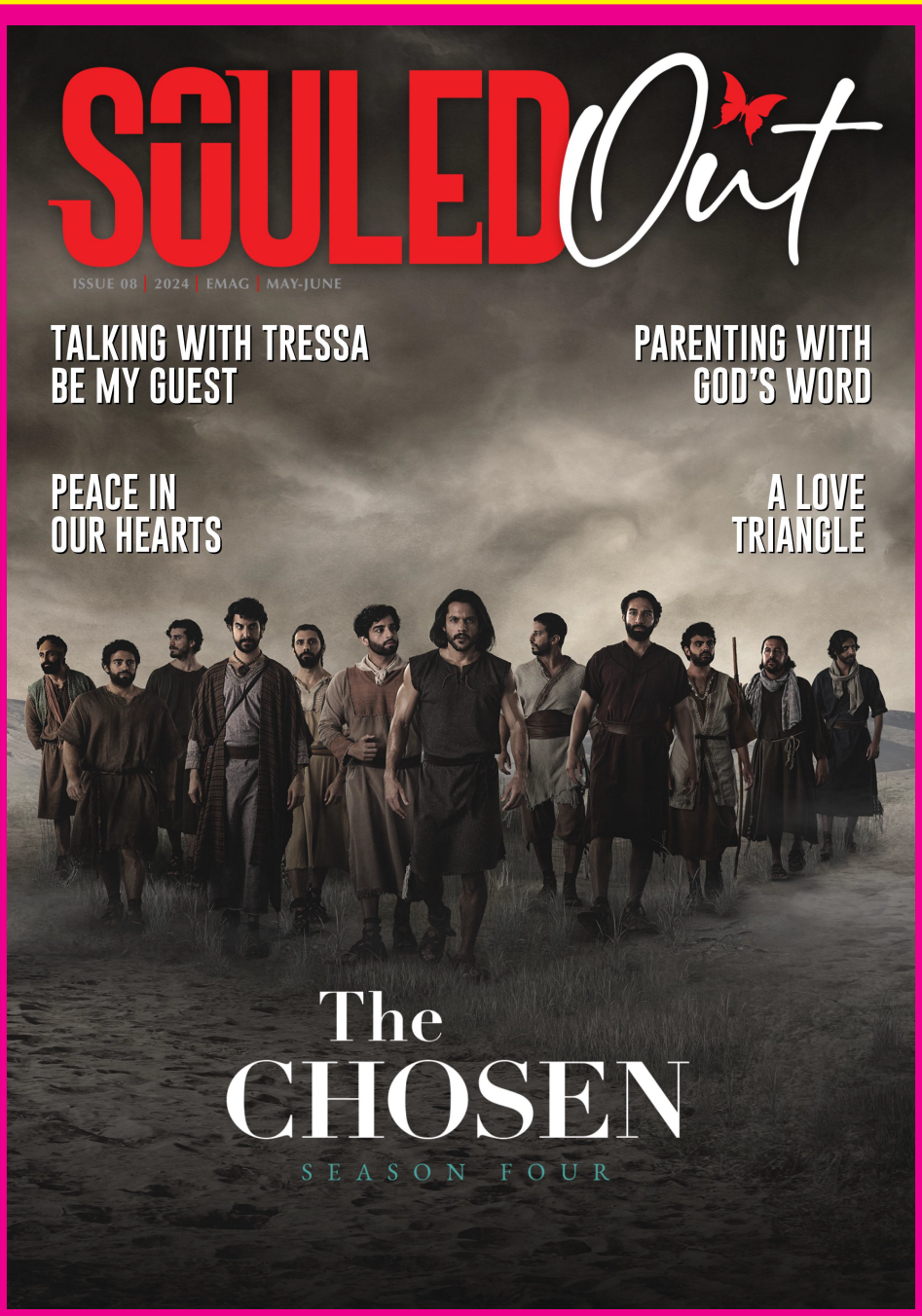

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