

THE BEACON



MELISSA'S CLIENT TESTIMONY

**“WHEN THE BATTLE
CHOOSES YOU”
MICHEAL WOODS**

**GOOD FRIDAY
FOOT CARE CLINIC**

MELISSA'S NEWFOUND PEACE

I came to Western Carolina Rescue Ministries to escape domestic violence. I had not planned it, but I felt led that day by the Holy Spirit to not return home. Unprepared, I had nowhere to go. Then, amazingly, I met a lady at the pharmacy who listened to my story and offered to bring me straight here for help.

The first thing I noticed here was the quietness and peace. I'd experienced chronic pain for over a decade, always aching for relief. On top of that, a years-old traumatic brain injury made it almost impossible to focus. I struggled with basic planning and decision-making, and sadly my abuser had used my problems to his advantage. Keeping me afraid, confused, and under his thumb, he would cash and spend my disability checks, keeping me powerless.

That's why the quietness here was so surprising. Although I still struggled with short-term memory, the quietness here made it possible for me to think clearly and for myself. Continued Inside...



What is a Monthly Miracle Partner?

Someone who gives each month, because they want to be a part of life change.

Want to become a Monthly Miracle Partner? Call us at 828-254-1529 & ask for Rusty.

Continued... In the peace of the ministry, my mind was flooded with things I had blocked or forgotten altogether. And as the staff here embraced me, learned more about my struggles, and they brought me the care I needed to heal from the inside out.

The second amazing thing about being here was how secure I felt. The check-in process is protected. The entryways are staffed. And there are the most amazing leaders here. I had prayed that God would surround me with Christians, and although I thought he would do it with a church, he did it through the women here like Mrs. Angie, Mrs. Anita, and Pastor Kim.

I serve as a core volunteer, which helps me give back, and keeps me safe during the day. My condition makes it hard to keep a traditional job. And being around town during the day all alone can be overwhelming. Here, the staff team are my protection and spiritual support, keeping me structured and on schedule.

It is easy to become depressed and anxious, but Pastor Kim helps me by finding Bible verses that relate to my struggles with memory or confusion. She also helps me create prayers to remind me to take my troubles to God. Focusing on His word and prayer, my faith grows every day.

Having to depend on others can be difficult, because I remember what it was like to be self-sufficient. I don't

enjoy having to ask for help, but God is using it to work on me right now. He's telling me, "You cannot do everything like before, and that's okay. I've placed people in your life to help you who are good at this or that. Let them help you. Ask them." I know He is right, but admitting I need help is the hardest thing of all.

Although God has his reasons for not taking my pain away. I trust Him and His plan. I have never blamed Him. He is my friend, my protection, my comforter, and my peacemaker.

Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night with something on my mind. It's encouraging to know that the ministry leaders here might just be awake at the same time praying for me. I know they love me like that, and I know they connect with the Lord like that for me. I feel protected here. Safe and able to rehabilitate.

The love here is real. It's not forced or fake. I feel truly cared for. It's important to feel like somebody cares what you're going through. Most of all, it is important to feel loved.

Melissa
Women of
Worth
Graduate



WHAT TO DO WHEN THE BATTLE CHOOSES YOU

Growing up I found myself in multiple situations that required me to have to fight. I was tall, skinny, with freckles, and had a severe stuttering problem. So fighting was just a part of my childhood. When I was younger, I relied on my fists, but as I have grown up and matured, I realize that I still have to fight just not with my hands. Now I fight with my faith. I am still tall, I am no longer skinny, I still have the freckles and I have conquered the stuttering problem, but the fights nowadays are more serious and require me to show up ready.

Today I step into battles confidently, facing conflict determined to win. Losing is not an option. Dealing with people's lives here at Western Carolina Rescue Ministries demands that I take battles seriously because people's lives are at stake.

While older and wiser people have said to pick battles wisely, experience has proven that some battles cannot - and must not - be avoided. They demand to be faced. Yes, **sometimes the battle chooses you**. There is no side-stepping or avoiding some fights. So, what do you do? You fight, fight, and keep fighting!

Let me ask you this: What if you knew that every time you fought you were guaranteed a win? Would that change your approach? Would that increase your confidence?

In 1 John 5, it says, "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." My interpretation of this is simple: Whatever the world throws at me, I win. Because I believe in Jesus Christ, because I'm born again, God has declared me an overcomer.

I believe that if I am in a fight, then I am in it to win it, regardless of how difficult or impossible things may seem. But you may argue, "You don't understand. My situation is too difficult to have that kind of confidence."

Friend, that's not true. God doesn't only help with little struggles. He joins you in every fight, every struggle. If there's a fight, I know God is with me (Hebrews 13:5) and as long as I have God with me, I know that nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37), and His confidence is my strength.

When we know that God has declared us overcomers, we have the resolve to stick and stay. It is a resolve that says, "There is no quit here."

There was a time in my thirties when everything seemed stacked against me. I was frustrated, working hard, trying to love God, trying to take care of my family. But the battle seemed insurmountable. I remember asking God, "Why are so many bad things happening to me?" Then, I had a revelation: Satan absolutely hates me. Friend, he hates you too. You may have the same questions as I did. See, his hatred of me - and you - existed before we were ever born. He hates us because we are everything he has always desired to be. He wanted to be like God, and you and I were created in God's image. He wanted creative abilities, but God blessed us and gave us dominion authority on the earth, legal authority to create. You are everything that Satan wanted to be but never could be.

While the enemy may know your past, only God who is all-knowing and all-powerful knows your future and has full knowledge of your past and present. See God is not limited by time or space. So, since the enemy does not know your future, he will try and bully you out of your tomorrows.

In Psalm 11, David declared that God is his refuge. He placed his trust in the Lord even in the face of mortal danger. The great preacher of old, Charles Spurgeon said, "I would rather dare the danger than mistrust the Lord." So I say to you, "Trust the Lord!" Regardless of the battle or the obstacle, God's got you. In John 16, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. Don't let your emotions betray you. Trust in God, for He is always with you.

Remember this: You're going to win. Not because of your cleverness, charm, or connections, but because the battle never belonged to you in the first place. The battle has always belonged to the Lord.

Even when it seems there's no victory in sight, God is still winning. Jesus, especially on the cross, didn't look like a winner to many, but His sacrifice brought complete victory over sin and death. Likewise, in our lives, God is working, even when we can't see victory.

When the battle chooses you, first choose your approach. Steady your resolve. Walk into every challenge boldly, knowing that God is with you, and victory is assured.



**Micheal
Woods**
Executive
Director

Join us in extending a helping hand to those in need



We're calling on our generous community to donate the following items by March 27th:

New or Gently Used Shoes
Towels
Adult Flip-Flops
Washcloths
Hygiene Items (Soap, Foot Care Products, etc.)

Volunteer with Us!

Date: Friday, March 29

Time: 10:45am-1pm

Location: Western Carolina Rescue Ministries-
225 Patton Ave. Asheville, NC 28801

Want to lend a hand at the event? We'd love to have you join us! Volunteers are crucial to our mission!

Contact Amanda Putnam for More Information

☎ Phone: 828-570-5279

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