



September 10, 2015

Amazing Awakening: Easter 2015

My business partner, Loyce, and I (Billie), are mental health therapists. We have worked with Skip, the founder and leader of Refuge City Ministries (RCM) and the youth that his ministry serves for almost two years. On the Wednesday before Easter last season, Skip asked us to conduct a Bible study for the youth. We accepted this invitation with great honor. As Loyce and I began to develop a plan on how to tell the greatest love story, Loyce came up with the idea for me to deliver my lines from the play I would be in on Good Friday. I was blessed to be one of two narrators in my church's play.

When we entered RCM on this particular Wednesday, God blessed us with a full house, there were a lot of youth there. Everyone was sent downstairs, as usual, to get ready for Bible study. As Skip, Loyce and I began to settle everyone down so I could speak, I began to become nervous. "What if they don't listen to me? I have never done a Bible Study with this group before, what if they do not receive what I am trying to give them?" I thought. Even with all of these questions in my mind, I let God lead my heart. I began first by giving the youth a personal self-disclosure of my life: how I was homeless numerous times, how I know what it is like to sleep on a park bench and go hungry. But then I met my Redeemer, my Savior who took everything that the enemy tried to use to kill me, to lift me up; to not only give me life and life more abundantly, but bring me to the place where I can help others through my story. At this point, I began to recite my lines.

God used me in such a wonderful way. The words poured out of my mouth like a beautiful song. As I spoke, I looked around at each person, and I could see them holding on to each and every word. As I concluded, I told the youth that the sacrifice Christ made was not just for me or for Skip or Loyce, but a gift for all of us. All they had to say was two words "Yes Lord." The youth sat wide-eyed. I looked around to see some tearing up and some nodding their heads yes. Then one by one, different individuals began to give a testimony (without fear or shame) of what God has done for them. They listened to each other, they embraced each other in Jesus' name. I praised God for using me in such a magnificent way and thanked Him for Refuge City Ministries. If it was not for this place and this time, we would not have had the chance to share God's love with these young adults, and they may not have had the chance to hear it. On this day, seeds of love and hope were planted. There's no doubt in my heart that God will bring the increase into their lives. Thank you Skip for giving me the honor to be a part of sharing the Gospel to those individuals whom society has shunned.

Mark 2:17 (NIV). On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Thank you, Billie S. Brent, M.A, NCC

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