

MY LIFE

I have survived many things in my life; abuse, rejection, tremendous fear, clinical depression resulting in a 6 week psychiatric hospitalization, financial loss and the disappointment of torn relationships and faded dreams. I never imagined, however, that I would have to live through my young son's debilitating facial cancer and then turn around only to face my husband's brokenness from kidney cancer. If you had asked me at the start of each phase of my journey if I was going to make it through, I would have said "No", but standing on this side, the other side, I can tell you without a doubt, I did make it, I continue to make it and you can too.

I have learned to hang on when I felt I couldn't catch my breath, to put one foot in front of the other and to choose to believe with all my being that God gives me strength because of Jesus Christ. Sometimes it is just enough strength for the moment, but each moment adds up to make another day; another day of overcoming, another day of choosing to live.

I have learned that the Bible is my lifeline. It gives me words to heal, comfort, encourage, teach and counsel me. It gives words of courage, honesty, peace and strength. It teaches me to find the dignity in the suffering.

I have learned that suffering leads me to the heart of God where I can gasp out the pain. There, I have learned and continue to learn, that my heart, mind and emotions are safe with Him. It propels me to find out who He is.

There He gives me endurance. There He reminds me that this life is not all there is. There is heaven.

There, in His heart, at His feet, I remind Him, that He promised to take the unknown, the circumstances beyond understanding and the ugly scars and make good out of them.

There, He reminds me, that I need to go and comfort others with the same comfort I have received.

The suffering has affected me in deep and profound ways. I continue to learn to live, with acceptance and joy, in the mystery of God and of life. And, when I least expect it, like last evening, Almighty God, Yahweh, catches me by surprise and shows Himself to me again. I was looking out the opening of an outside door at 4:00 a.m. because I couldn't sleep and needed some air. As I looked, what I saw caused me to take a step back in wonder and at the same time to move forward as if to try to capture and touch what was beyond my grasp. The constellations seemed brighter than normal, the stars more numerous and the milky way more stunning than I could remember seeing with the naked eye. They twinkled! Oh, how they twinkled, like elegant strobe lights set against a dark background in a majestic, grand ballroom.

Once again, God said to me, "I am huge. I am here and there is more. Keep going. Choose life".

I stood in awe, drinking it in, gaining perspective, reminding myself and telling Him how truly great He is.

*deborah klassen
Summer 2001
The Ashgrove
Canada*

deborah

REFERENCES

“Deborah Klassen is a delight. She brings passion, commitment, reverence, artistry and true worship to her audience. Her love for the Word of God is obvious in all that she does. Deborah’s life has been deeply impacted by great struggle, but she has become “more than a conqueror”. Her message is one of hope, encouragement and deep gratitude for the love of God that has lifted her out of a great pit and put her feet on solid ground.”

Kay Arthur,
Precept Ministries International

“Without a doubt it was one of the best performances I have ever attended. Her ministry has an outstanding sense of the Lord’s anointing upon it. When she sang God empowered her words. People of all backgrounds were deeply moved”.

Rev. Dan Driedger,
Stoney Creek Alliance Church, Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada

“I consider it an honor to know Deborah Klassen. In a day where too many singers just entertain, Deborah ministers. Her voice is a breath of fresh air and her passion for Christ is contagious.”

Babbie Mason,
Award winning Recording Artist / Songwriter, Author

“Deborah is the consummate professional who has been gifted with an outstanding voice that has been recognized in her receiving her recent JUNO award. Her personality is such that she is a delight to work with and her audiences thrill to her performances”.

Dr. Nell Maxwell,
Founder of Women Alive, Canada

“During production of Deborah’s latest CD, ‘Legacy of Hope’, I was able to become better acquainted with both the person and the artist. Deborah radiates enthusiasm and a passion for God in every fibre of her being. This finds vital expression in the legacy of music she shares. It is a gift to the church and to every soul that hears her heavenly sounds!”

Bruce W. Stacey,
President, Chelsea Road Productions Inc. and Senior Producer,
Cook Communications Ministries, Kilbride, Ontario, Canada.

“Deborah is one of the finest communicators of the message of Jesus Christ through music that I have ever met and I am richly blessed every time I hear her sing. Not only does Deborah capture your ear with her crystal clear voice, but she moves your heart because she know the One she sings about, in a most intimate way”.

Danny Daniels,
Minister of Music and Worship Arts, Salem Church of God, Salem, Ohio

“I connected with your music-it is powerful. I connected with your platform presence-it is personable. I connected with your spirit-it is reverent. I connected with your story-it is the reason for your depth. I was encouraged to become ‘greater’. I was exhorted to trust God in a deeper way. I was excited to see what God was going to do next in my life. I have seen you in several ministry situations and each time has been a refreshing reflection of what God can do in the life of one who is totally given to Him.”

Jan Silvious,
Author, Speaker, Broadcaster, Chattanooga, Tennessee

“Besides being a great singer, Deborah always moves me emotionally. She is an incredible performer and has a God-given talent to capture her audience”.

Tom Jackson,
Performance Consultant, On Stage Concepts, Nashville, Tennessee

Deborah

REFERENCES

“Deborah is consistently able to reach the inner heartbeat of the human soul with a spiritual touch from God. There is a strength of presence, but a humility of manner, that captures the listener’s attention and then draws them to consider the One she elevates in song”.

Mike Noble, Navigators of Canada

“God’s gifting is so evident in Deborah’s life. Her ministry of music reflects the love of the Lord in a powerful way. Her obvious commitment to prayer and dependence upon the Lord was reflected in her anointed ministry. I highly recommend Deborah in any setting.”

**Donna McKay, Pastor of Women’s Ministries,
Sherwood Park Alliance Church, Sherwood Park,
Alberta, Canada**

“Deborah’s incredible vocal talent coupled with the awesome presence of God made for a powerful and unforgettable worship experience”.

**Thomas Miller, Minister of Music,
Gateway Church, Southlake, Texas**

“Rather than just another talented singer, Deborah, along with her husband Earl provide a life testimony and spirit that moved us all. There was no pretense, just humble ministry before the Lord”.

**Dr. W. E. (Bill) Coleman, Senior Pastor,
Faith Baptist Church, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada**

“Deborah is truly a servant of God, and her sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit and tenacious obedience to God’s commandments has provided women with an inspiring model as a follower of Jesus Christ. Her ministry instilled an uplifting sense of hope and gave life to the scriptures”.

**Liz Dawkins, Women’s Ministry Coordinator,
The Peoples Church, Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

“Deborah has a powerful, gifted voice and a sensitivity to ministering in the Spirit. She moves beyond entertaining an audience and conveys a pure, heartfelt message”.

**William D. Morrow, General Superintendent,
Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada**

“Deborah, your passion for Christ and for your art touched a lot of hearts tonight. Everyone thought you were singing a Word from God just to them.”

**Diane Bollis, Founder and Chaplain of The Gate
Community Chaplaincy services for Women Prisoners.**

“Delightful, powerful, deeply spiritual. These are the words that come to mind when I think of Deborah Klassen. Deborah is loved by the ‘100 Huntley Street’ viewing audience, but even more important than experiencing her music on television, is to experience Deborah’s music in person. God has given her a gift which she compassionately and joyously shares with all of us”.

**David Mainse, ‘100 Huntley Street’,
Crossroads, Christian Communications, Burlington, Ontario, Canada**

“I highly recommend Deborah to anyone looking for a speaker/musician.”

**Nancy Cruickshank,
Community Church, Port Perry, Ontario, Canada**

“Deborah has the prayerful support and encouragement of her pastor and church family. Therefore, I highly recommend Deborah to you in any music ministry need, worship service or event”.

**Rev. Steven Jones,
Pastor of Parkdale Baptist Church, Belleville, Ontario, Canada**

Deborah

PERFORMANCE RESUME

Performance Experience:

- solo career began at the age of three
- Canadian National Exhibition Gospel Music Day
- Toronto Blue Jays banquets
- Navigators of Canada Banquets
- Special musical guest artist for John McArthur & Tony Campolo
- Canadian Gospel Showcase, Gospel Music Association, Nashville, TN
- Canadian Christian Booksellers Convention, Toronto, Spring 1999
- USA Christian Booksellers Convention, Orlando, Florida, Summer 1999
- 1998, 1999 & 2000 tours to Scotland, England & Western Canada
- Precept Ministries International, Chattanooga, Tennessee U.S.A.
- Callaway Gardens, South Carolina U.S.A.

Recording Artist:

- Song for World Vision Promotional Video
- Christmas videos for "100 Huntley Street"
- Commercial "jingles and voice-overs" for radio play
- CD Release, 1996, "Faithful and True"
- CD Release, 1998, Legacy of Hope, [with special guests, Sharon Riley and Faith Chorale, 1999 Juno Award winners (Gospel Category)] (CMC Distribution)

Studies:

- Early Piano studies
- Voice instruction under Mr. Marcus Kramer, member of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir & The Elmer Isler Singers
- Performance under Tom Jackson, highly respected Performance Consultant to U.S.A. Contemporary Christian artists such as Cindy Morgan, Jars of Clay, NewSong, Phillips, Craig and Dean, Carman and more.
- Christian Leaders and Speakers Seminar graduate, Florence Littauer, Instructor.
- Presently studying voice with Phyllis Antognini, graduate of the Julliard School of Music

Television Appearances:

- Regular live appearances, "100 Huntley Street" (International), "The Peoples Church, Toronto" (National)
- Christian Broadcasting Network, Buffalo, NY
- Christian Television Network, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- "LIVE TO AIR", North American, CD Release Party, January 1999, Toronto, Canada
- James Robison, "Life Today" Television, Texas

Awards:

- JUNO AWARD WINNER, 2000 – Best Gospel Album
(Canada's highest music award)
- CGMA, COVENANT AWARD WINNER, 1999 – Best Inspirational Album
- CGMA, COVENANT AWARD NOMINEE, 2001 – Favorite Female Artist

