

KINGDOM POST

Kingdom Pillar's Newsletter



Life Change is Happening

"L" brought her second daughter into the world the last week in March. Both baby and mom are doing well. She is on maternity leave from her job and is doing really well budgeting her funds, along with the stimulus check she received. She has been transitioning well to parenting an 18-month-old and a newborn.

"M" continues working full-time at a local grocery store and says it keeps her mind off the virus. She used her stimulus check to get a studio apartment within walking distance of the store. This is awesome news as "M" had been couch-surfing for almost a year.

Please continue praying for all the young women we are mentoring. We haven't been able to reach two women since the "shelter-at-home" order. They were couch-surfing and we do not know where they are. We pray constantly for their safety.

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PG-13/EMOTIONAL TRIGGER CONTENT WARNING FOR THIS PAGE

Cora has courageously given permission to share her story. If the horrors she lived were plainly revealed, it would require beyond a MA rating. We have made the retelling a little more palatable with her permission, but it is still difficult reading and may be a trigger if you have experienced abuse yourself.

Cora: A Survivor of Human Trafficking

When I was a little girl growing up in Columbus, Ohio, I was put to “work” at a very young age.

My mother sold me, and drove me wherever, whenever she got the call to get her drugs or for sex. Many of her “clients” became my clients without my consent as this started at a very young age. The earliest I can remember is being four years old in smelly motels. Around my eighth birthday, I was taken to an orgy for the first time. It was in a fancy hotel downtown. I was used for an S&M show, chained up with a dog collar, while men committed violent and unnatural acts on me. Afterwards, left lying there like a broken object, I felt so humiliated. I was ashamed, dirty and knew deep down I deserved more in my life. I trembled in fear, but my body straightened and stilled itself like a bow in suspense before the shot, and I heard my voice as though it were not my own, telling them that this was wrong and that I was going to tell on them, and that they would all go to jail!!! As the loud music continued to play, no one seemed to care, no one. Once the “party” was over my mother and some man took me quietly away to a basement. I was certain that I was going to be killed, but instead I was given a sandwich and a blanket and told I was to remain silent.

During the week, I went to school. I was a shy girl, with few friends. I remember once in the second grade, becoming aware of an energetic shift in the room, to realize all eyes were on me. The teacher had been calling on me, and I had been too spaced-out to hear. She wondered out loud if I knew the answer to the question she had asked, and I sat in embarrassing silence while the class laughed. This sadly happened more often than not.

I was a nonentity at school and at home, no one cared for me. I received more attention online and through Mom’s network of drug dealers and friends. It felt good to be viewed as the perfectly beautiful, sensual object by men. This sadly was the only positive in my life. I clung to it as my only raft to keep from drowning in a sea of shame and self-loathing and guilt that I would later learn was not mine to carry. As a teenager, I wanted to kill myself.

It would take several more years, many more hours of therapy, an ongoing mentor, a newfound relationship with the Lord in order to finally share my story with one safe person. Knowing Darcey and Jay are there for me and will always be since meeting them at Lighthouse as a teenager (I am now 30!) has been a huge blessing. I am excited to see how many lives will be changed because people do care and know trafficking is NEVER a choice a young lady makes on her own.

I share this experience publicly here for the first time, having finally reached a place in my healing where I have access once again to the strength that came through me in those moments of clarity. - Cora



Nearly 3 OSU Bands

In Ohio, nearly 1,000 young people age out of the foster care system each year. Statistically, 6.5 out of 10 have been abused and trafficked. That's 650 young people per year, whose life and future has been stolen from them. That's nearly 3 OSU marching bands with every member having been abused and/or trafficked (which is abuse). And that's every year!

Young Girls are the Majority

A new study from the University of Cincinnati identified 1,032 victims between 2014 and 2016 and another 4,209 individuals at risk of being trafficked during the same period. Of the 1,032 victims, 86% were minors and most were girls.

Cora, "L," "M," and all the other young women who have aged out of foster care or have been trafficked are why we do what we do.

Strong Tower: A safe haven for young women

Some have asked, "Why is Strong Tower only for young women?" It's a good and fair question. Our answer is simply...because we have to start somewhere and women are the most vulnerable. Jay regularly meets with a group of young men and will continue to do so until we are able to expand and offer a home-setting for men as well.

Our greatest need right now is for a place these young women can call home.



New Tax Deductions Make It Easier to Give

Part of the 2020 CARES Act offers a new universal deduction for charitable contributions. The bill makes a new deduction available, without itemizing, of up to \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 for a married couple) in annual charitable contributions in 2020. For those who itemize in 2020 only, the CARES Act allows deductions of contributions up to 100% of their adjusted gross income. Corporations may increase giving to 25% of their taxable income. Please consult your legal or tax professionals for filing details.

Partner With Us

While we continue to mentor and provide resources as best we can, we simply must have a safe place these young women can call home while they heal and find a victorious path forward. We are still actively working to raise the funds to provide the safe haven they need. We need \$100,000 to start the construction and \$650,000 estimated for the total Strong Tower home.

Donate

Online: www.kpstrongtower.org
Mail: PO Box 108, Newark, OH 43058
contact@kpstrongtower.org | 740.641.5098

Help Us Connect

Invite others to virtual coffee with you and Darcey. Follow us on Facebook: Kingdom Pillars Strong Tower

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

COVID-19 isn't stopping us! Kingdom Pillars continues to provide services to one of Central Ohio's most vulnerable populations. We still provide our Mentees with services through phone and Facetime, and with daily resources.

Case management services, including therapy, are available to young ladies 24/7. We are constantly working with community partners to ensure our Mentees are safe and to help with essential resources (food, mentoring services, etc.)