

WARRIORS ACADEMY

**MISSIONARIES
WITH A PURPOSE**

*Building A Sustainable
Future*

**"IT'S NOT
NORMAL!"**

*See How The Warriors
Academy Is Responding To
Violence Against Women*

**GENDER- BASED
VIOLENCE:**

*7 Things You Need To
Know*

**EMPOWERED TO
BREAK FREE**

WARRIORS ON A MISSION TO STOP

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



**BREAK THE CYCLE AGAINST
WOMEN**

ZELLE/WARRIORSACADEMY

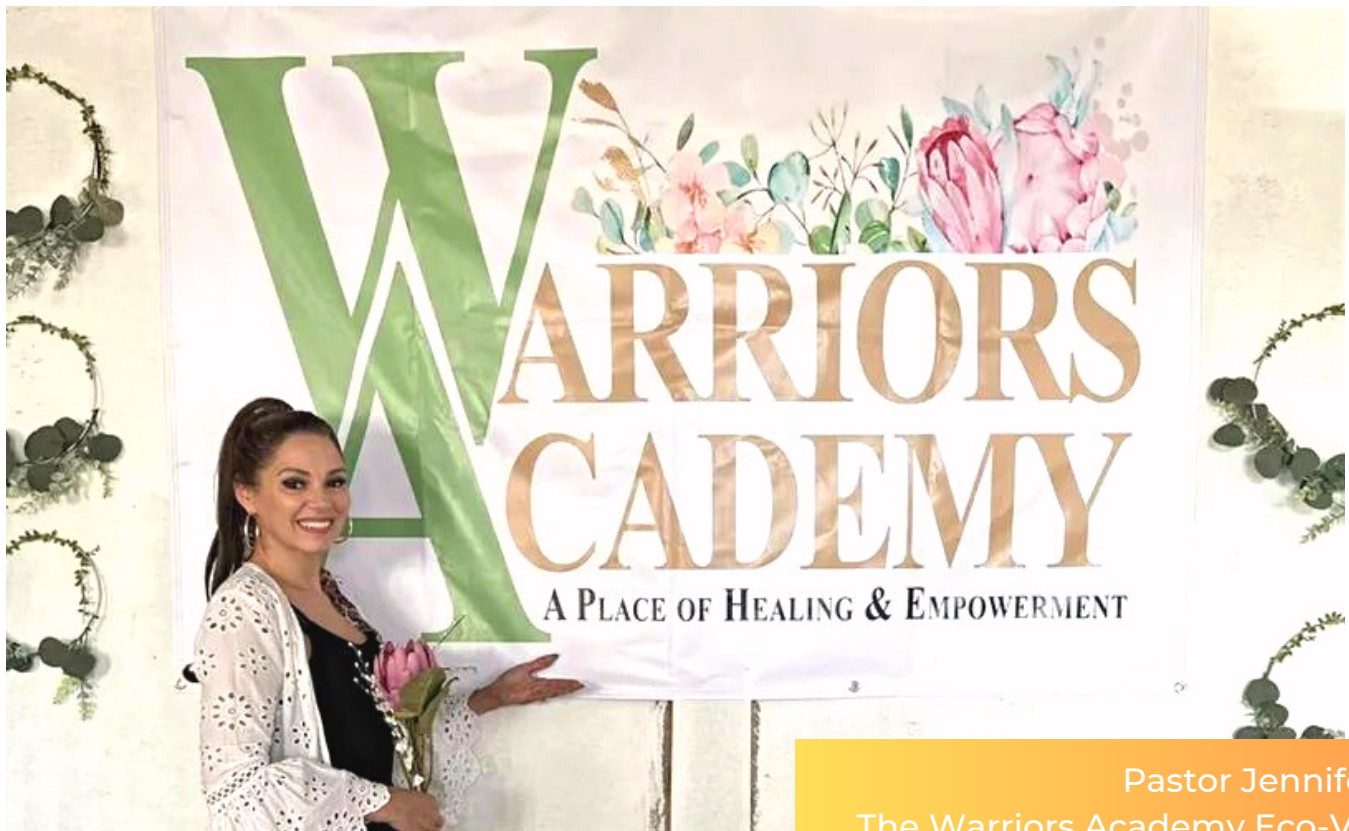
A high-angle photograph of two women in a workshop. One woman, wearing a red headband and a floral top, is leaning over a table and drawing on a white sheet of paper with a red marker. The other woman, with braided hair and wearing a yellow top, is sitting at the table looking at the drawing. The background is a bright, modern interior with a white wall and a potted plant.

The Warriors Academy Magazine

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Pastor Jennifer Cruz
The Warriors Academy Eco-Village -
Delmas, South Africa 2022

It All Began Here

The Warriors Academy started in 2021 as a mentorship program for women who have experienced brokenness in their life but desired to be healed, free and empowered through Jennifer Cruz's mentorship - *The Warriors Circle*.

Jennifer was encouraged by her good friend, *RealTalk Kim (Kimberley Jones)*, to branch out and launch an online mentorship program which to her surprise, would reach women beyond the city borders of Chicago, Illinois.

An Open Door

Jennifer Cruz was faithfully mentoring women online, and in person when the Lord opened a door of opportunity for the Warriors to purchase a building in Delmas (a village in Johannesburg, South Africa), to bring mentorship, healing, and empowerment to women who have gone through gender-based violence.

Beauty From Ashes

"I've been mentoring women and teenaged girls for over thirty years in my city through the local church. I myself experience gender-based violence as a little girl and teenager.

I never imagined I would be traveling to the nations bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ, and healing to broken women and children facing what I've been healed from."

- Pastor Jennifer Cruz

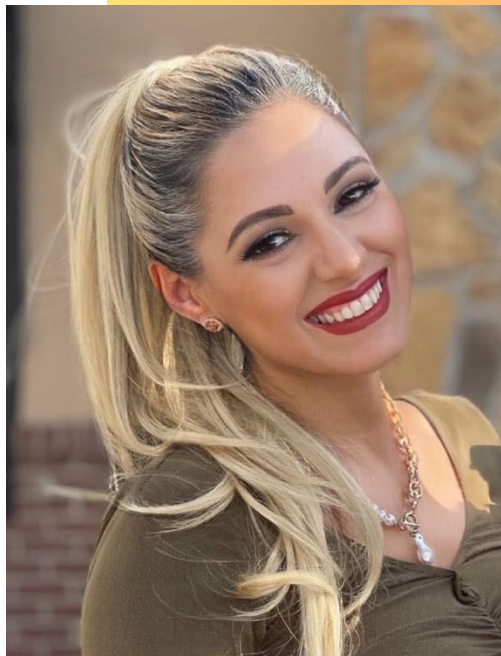
We're Just Getting Started

The Warriors Academy have only just begun their endeavor to bring God given healing to the nations. More locations are beginning to sprout across the globe such as Liberia, Belize Costa Rica Mexico and .

Read more about what the Warriors Academy have accomplished so far.

Meet Our Founder

Jennifer Jordan Cruz
Founder of Warriors Academy



Hello, my name is Jennifer Cruz, and I was born and raised in Chicago, IL. I tend to refer to my life as being *"beautifully broken"*, because I've learned to heal and allow God to restore every broken place I've experienced. I grew up in a broken home with my mother and older sister. My father left our home when I young and it became extremely hard for my mother and her mental health. As a child, I was sexually abused on various occasions by men who would enter our home. As time continued, my mother's mental health worsened, and I was sent to live with my grandparents. At thirteen, I was raped by a family member, who was much older than me at the time. When I opened up about my assault, I was shamed and physically punished. This caused me to go down a very dark path, until I encountered my Savior, Jesus Christ at sixteen years old.

My faith and walk with Christ, led me down a road of healing and empowerment. The Lord taught me how to pick up the broken pieces of my life and move forward. Overcoming my darkest times and seeing the faithfulness of God, is what initially stirred up a passion inside of my heart to help women who are facing Gender-Based Violence. My desire is to bring the same healing and work the Lord has done in my life, to all women and put an end to Gender-Based Violence.



"Broken places can become the sweetest places..."
- Jennifer Jordan Cruz

(Photographed is Jennifer, at 13 years old in Chicago, IL)

WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?



Gender-based violence (GBV) is a broad term that includes various forms of violence committed against women and girls because they are female. GBV includes, but is not limited to, **physical and sexual violence** such as ***rape, trafficking & forced prostitution, female-genital mutilation, and femicide***. Often, but not always, a man who commits gender-based violence knows the woman or girl he is assaulting. GBV can be domestic violence and occur within family households. It can also be violence committed by neighbors, acquaintances, or others in the community. Gender-based violence also includes underlying issues in societies that limit women and children. These underlying issues are usually cycles that promote and reinforce additional gender-based violence.





HEALING BRINGS POWER

IT'S TIME TO JOIN THE FIGHT

Combatting gender-based violence in South Africa includes implementing community programs and self-defense for young women. Gender empowerment is an important part of these programs, along with providing support services for survivors and implementing the power of prayer. The Warriors Academy is a place of healing and empowerment for girls who have gone through gender-based violence and we are blessed to be part of the solution to ending all forms of GBV in South Africa.



THE VISION

Our vision for the Warriors Academy is to be a place of healing and empowerment for women who have faced Gender-Based Violence.

At the Warriors Academy, healing and empowerment go hand-in-hand. We strongly believe in walking beside women through their healing journey from start to finish. Part of this process is ensuring that each woman has been transformed and given the tools needed to maintain her healing and newfound freedom.

The Warriors Academy has strategically integrated education and business courses into our healing sessions to bring forth women of power, innovation, pioneers and entrepreneurs. We strive to give them more than a handout, but a hand up, to break the wheel of poverty and oppression.

As missionaries, our desire is too not only bring freedom and healing, but **sustainability** to all the women we encounter at the academy.

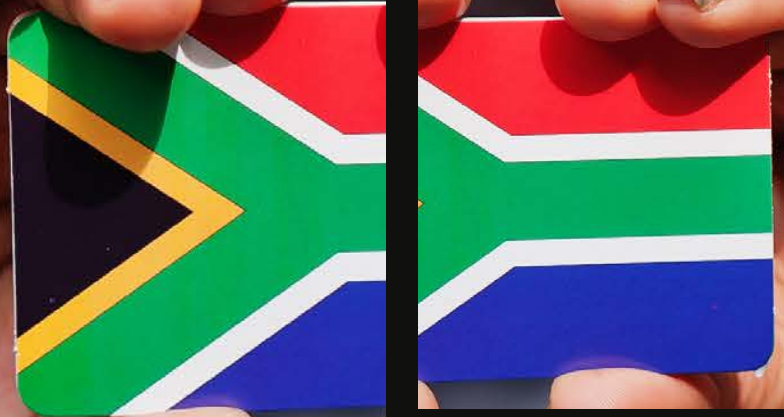
Sustainability refers to the ability to maintain or support a process continuously over time. In ministry and missionary contexts, sustainability seeks to prevent the depletion of natural or physical resources, so that they will remain available for long term.

We simplify this process by, pulling on the gifting that are planted inside of the women and place business strategies and resources in their hands to ensure they are cared for whether we are on the mission field or back at home in the states.



Photographed is Jennifer Cruz (Left), Amanda Toro (Middle) and Katie Traxler (Right), January 2023.

empower





PHASE ONE

Jennifer Cruz and her team of missionaries travel to different nations establishing Warriors Academy locations. Once the properties have been purchased, the teams will jump-start Phase One of our missions.

The teams help to establish our work, by build homes in the villages for the families and begin to network and start connecting with the women nearby. During this phase, we will also begin renovations for the new facility.

We begin to decorate the building to providing an environment that is clean, safe and welcoming to the broken. These facilities are where mentorship, healing and empowerment sessions will take place.

A pastor or missionary will stay behind at the facility to care for the ins and outs of the program and can report directly to Jennifer Cruz during the times she is back in the US.

The Mission In Action



"PICKING UP THE BROKEN PIECES AND MOVING FORWARD"

PHASE TWO:

Inner-healing is a process, and working with women who have gone through Gender-Based Violence requires prayer, dedication and compassion. It can't be done in our own strength alone, but with the love of Christ, Jesus.

Majority of the women who come into the Warriors Academy have been living their life in 'survival mode' and they are learning to trust again. A relationship and bond must be established between the women and our missionaries in order for the women to feel they are in a safe space to share their past experiences.



(Jennifer Cruz, former Mrs. Illinois, specializes in speaking into the lives of women.)

A typical intake would begin with an invitation into our facilities where they can partake in fun activities such as vision boards, and art therapy sessions. We also provide clothing, fun accessories like jewelry, makeup and other personal care items. Through acts of love, quality time, and prayer we win their hearts and trust.

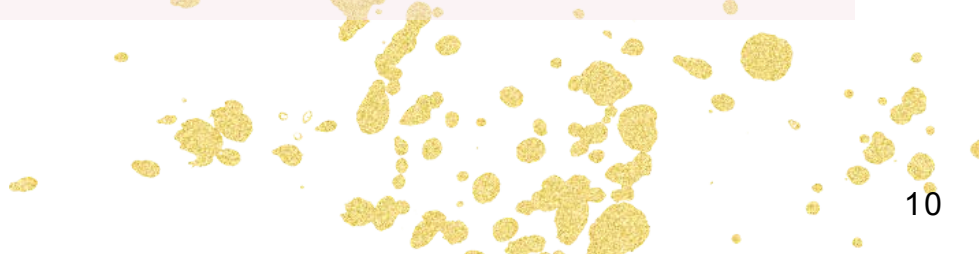




Creating The Vision

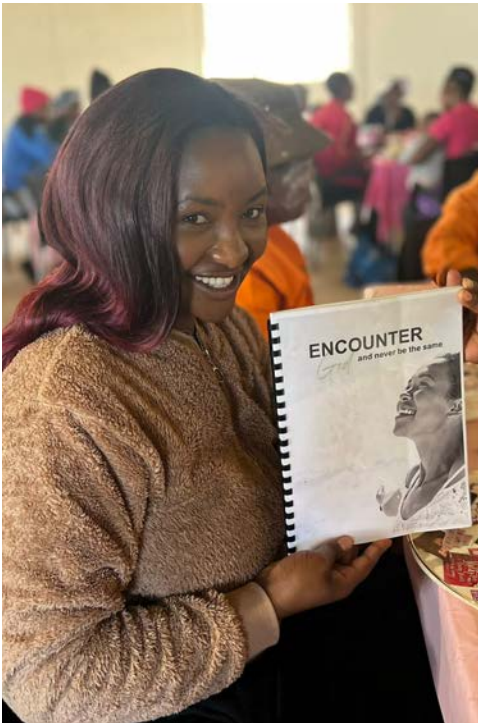
Take a look at the vision board and art therapy sessions held at the Warriors Academy in Delmas, South Africa.

2021-2023



THE Encounter

S E S S I O N S



PHASE

3

For the last 30 years Jennifer has been bringing the Encounter series and Soul Therapy sessions to women in the USA and because of it, we have seen many lives impacted and transformed. These sessions have been proven to bring healing, change and empowerment. Now these same sessions are being offered at the Warriors Academy in South Africa and will continue to be offered through the Warriors Academy outside of the USA.

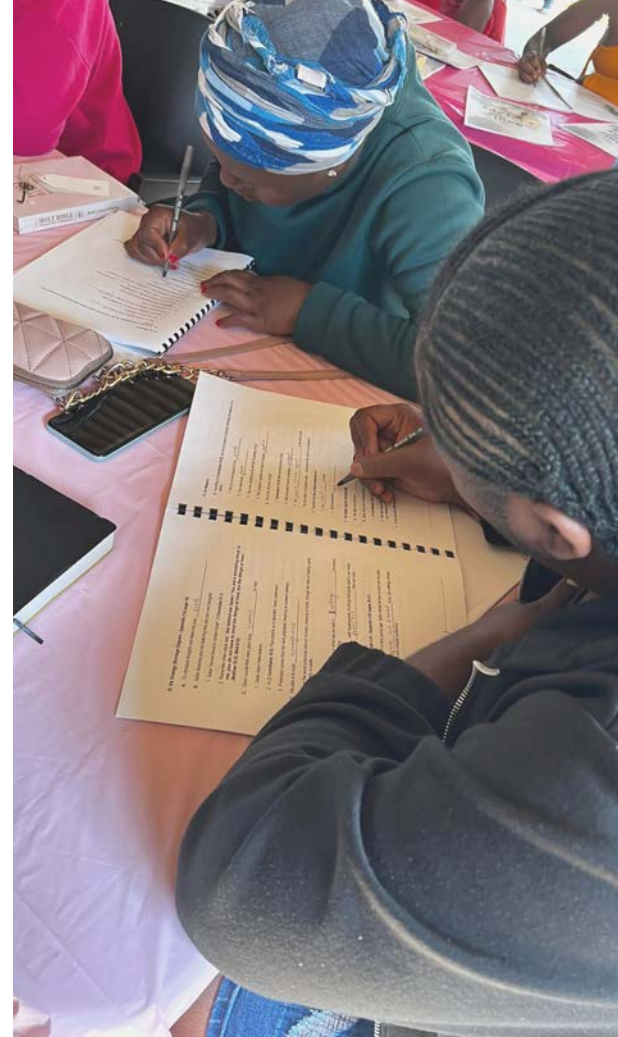


How The Past is Being Restored

Phase 3 Introduces our Encounter and Soul Therapy material that focus on inner soul-healing and restoration. Phase 3 is the perfect time to introduce these sessions now that the women's hearts are in a vulnerable position to be open about their brokenness as they become receptive to change.



Encounter & Soul Therapy Sessions



Encounter sessions are broken up into seven different courses: *Broken Vessel*, *The Battlefield of the Mind*, *Forgiveness*, *Weight of Our Words*, *Prayer That Changes Things*, *Spiritual House Cleaning*, and *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*.

Each session is imbedded with tools needed to target every phase of healing that one will experience when recovering from abuse. The women receive workbooks, study guides and a new bible for them to reference scripture.

The sessions are led by leaders who have been skillfully trained and carry a high-level of understanding, experience and empathy for the discussions being led.

It is not uncommon for breakthrough and deliverance to take place in our sessions. Each instructor is assisted with other missionary leaders to help facilitate the session if a warrior needs extra care and prayer.

Our team dedicate their time while on the mission field and travel to different villages nearby to make the Encounter and Soul Therapy sessions available to all who gone through Gender-Based Violence.

Sustainability is key in maintaining healing and freedom. During our time on the mission field, Jennifer Cruz trains up key leaders who are natives to the villages. She mentors the selected leaders to teach and lead sessions.

Jennifer remains in constant communication with the native leaders and continues the work with them to ensure that healing and empowerment is available to the women who come to the academy whether the missionaries are on the field or back in the US.

The Encounter sessions are designed to bring wisdom, freedom and healing into our inner-most being.



**WARRIORS
ACADEMY**



PHASE FOUR

Phase Four is where the Warriors Academy lay a foundation to a sustainable future for the women. As we encourage their gifting and talents through mentorship, we're able to create a strategy that aligns with their passion. The Warriors Academy provides them with a network, resources, financial planning, and education to carry out these aspirations to continue to build a secure life for their future.

SOWING CLASSES:

The Warriors Academy launched a Sewing program for women who have a passion for fashion and design. We believe in not only giving them a handout, but a hand up which can ensure sustainability. These classes are built to accommodate women who want to learn as a beginner, or for those who would like to enhance their techniques. We have a successful fashion designer from South Africa on our team as their instructor. Soon the women will be designing custom school uniforms for the students at the Academy.



Sewing Skills Transfer Programme

BECOMING AN AUTHOR:

Writing programs are available for those who desire to become an author. Jennifer Cruz, author and writing coach, takes the aspiring writers under her mentorship. She designed this program to encourage and teach women how to write and publish their book from start to finish within 90 days. During this program, the women are connected with a publishing agency, marketing tools and planning strategies





EDUCATION

The Warriors Academy has helped young girls and teens continue their schooling and receive a proper education in a safe environment. They have provided laptops, school supplies, and Wi-Fi with the help of sponsors. Soon a school will be housed in one of the facilities to provide well rounded education and more job opportunities.



PHASE 4

ETIQUETTE CLASSES

Etiquette classes are available at the Warriors Academy for women and children to provide fine dining etiquette, and social settings.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Financial planning is imbedded into our programs to educate the women on the importance of money management through our business classes. We teach on investments and new income streams, providing them with knowledge to manage what has been placed in their hands to nurture and prosper their businesses.





ENCOUNTER
SESSIONS AT THE
WARRIORS ACADEMY



CLASS

IS



IN

SESSION



APRIL 2023



A group of people are gathered in a room with a slatted ceiling. Some individuals are holding up their phones, likely taking photos or videos. The scene is captured in a warm, sepia-toned filter. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**“
WE HAVE
BEEN GIVEN
THE KEYS TO
THE KINGDOM
TO HEAL AND
EMPOWER.
”**

Saying "NO" To Gender- Based Violence

BREAKING OUR SILENCE

Before leaving the USA to South Africa in November of 2022, the Lord had placed in my heart to bring earrings with me from our Jewelry collection, *Jewels On A Mission*.

During our mission trip, we stopped by a village in Soweto, under the care of a woman named Mama Coral. Our missionary team from the Warriors Academy began to spend time with the girls living there, loving on them, winning their trust by sharing powerful testimonies about how we received healing and restoration against Gender-Based Violence.

The ladies had a chance to share their thoughts towards the end of our session. This is when a young girl named Thando stood up and began to share what was on her heart. As she was speaking, I began to say to myself "If she says she was raped, I'm going to give her my earrings Lord". Shortly after, Thando shared that she was a victim of an assault not too long ago and seeing us be bold against gender-based violence really encouraged her.

I knew in my heart that I was meant to take her under my mentorship and connect with her. I took off my earrings and gave them to her as I embraced her and began to pray over her.

Thando being brave and sharing her story, sparked something in the women that day. They all began sharing their experience. We began to distribute the heart shaped earrings which I had pack with me, as a symbol to rise up and say "NO! to Gender-Based Violence and fight back. Girls all over the village, both young and old took their stand against gender-based violence and wore their earrings with confidence chanting out loud "We say "No to Gender Based Violence & it wasn't my fault, I'm a Warrior! "





Soweto, South Africa
April 2023

WE ARE WARRIORS

The Warriors Academy revisited the Best Health Solutions Organization, in Soweto, South Africa under the care of Mama Coral. This time bringing along heart-shaped sunglasses for the women as a reminder to continue to say "NO!" to Gender-Based Violence, keeping the vision before them.

"Humanly speaking, it's impossible. But with God all things are possible."

MATTHEW 19:26





RISE UP



JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



The Warriors Academy is currently working alongside a team of leaders to help plant a new facility in the heart of Soweto, South Africa. This facility will not only be a healing center against Gender-Based Violence but will provide a safe haven for children and families who have been displaced. Over 30 years ago, many of these families traveled to Soweto from distant villages in search for work, housing and hope. Unfortunately, when they discovered that these opportunities were not available, they had no choice but to gather scraps of metal to create squatter shacks. For over 30 years, they have been promised by local officials to be relocated but the wait continues. Which is why they carry the label of being The Displaced People.



The current state of these squatter shacks turned villages is heartbreaking. Till' this day, there has not been a sustainable source of food and safe drinking water established. The village relies on one Jojo tank of water (2500L) for more than 1,000 squatter homes. Not to mention, the Jojo tank is only filled once a week.

In addition, there is only 4 porter potties for the entire village to occupy that is maintained twice per week. There is no waste removal and when clean resources have been exhausted, families have to turn to unclean bodies of water that contain sewer waste.

During our time with the women, many expressed tragic experiences of rape and assaults that happen on the nightly bases. There is no source of electricity, and the nights are pitch black. Predators take this to their advantage, since there is no phonelines or lights, there is no way to communicate or get help until the following morning.





The construction for the new facility in Soweto, South Africa has begun. - April 2023

BUILDING FOR BETTER.

TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE THE NARRATIVE

Join the Warriors Academy as we continue to stand for justice and build a better, sustainable future for women and children who have gone through Gender-Based violence.

This is a fight that we can't win alone. With your support, the Warriors Academy can continue to finish new building projects in Soweto and Kliptown, providing the villages healing from Gender-Based Violence, schooling, and sustainable development.


By locking arms with us, we can build the first school, church and creative centers for families and children, giving the displaced people a new name and chapter.



"IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL ITS DONE"
-NELSON MANDELA

We have already begun to see the fruits of our labor, and this is only the beginning. Much more is still to be completed and we need your help to do it.

Become a part of the of the change the Warriors Academy is bringing, we continue to touch lives and be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

A close-up photograph of a young girl with her hair in a bun, wearing white face paint and a colorful beaded necklace. She is smiling broadly and looking towards the camera. In the background, another person is partially visible, also smiling. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**"HE HAS
MADE
EVERYTHING
BEAUTIFUL
IN HIS
TIME."**

ECCLESIASTES 3:11

Memories



THAT WILL LAST
Forever...

*A special thank you and recognition to my good friend and mentor,
Dr. Patricia Bailey...*

The power of mentorship starts right at the top of this organization with Dr. Patricia Bailey. In 2012 this beautiful relationship began when Jennifer was a guest speaker for Dr. Bill Winston. As Jennifer ministered, Dr. Bailey recognized the gifting inside of her and invited Jennifer on her television program, where she taught from her books on parenting and coming alongside broken women, teaching them how to pick up the broken pieces and move forward. Since that day, Dr. Bailey has been mentoring Jennifer as a spiritual mother, teaching her the dynamics of impacting the nations and the mission field.

Dr. Patricia Bailey is a lecturer, author, and founder of the Master's Touch Ministries Global, (MTM) Inc. Her ministry has produced a tremendous impact for more than 42 years and in over 147 countries around the world, bringing deliverance, healing, and salvation to countless thousands. Dr. Bailey's ministry was one of the first to provide disaster relief to the South Pacific Tsunami in 2004 and the earthquake in Haiti in 2010. Locally she has assisted with the Flint, Michigan Water Project, Hurricane Sandy, and Katrina victims.

Her global ministry, MTM has founded Y.U.G.O. (Young Adults United for Global Outreach), GLTC (Global Leadership Training Center), a program designed to teach global strategies that empower leaders to impact nations, and S.E.W (Sisters Empowering the World), an Intensive Training Center, consisting of 5-days of extensive training, designed to equip women to become vessels of honor for their families. Ultimately transforming women into world changers empowered to impact the nations.

Dr. Bailey has served as a consultant to the United Nations, (UN) Heads of States, Diplomats, and Governmental Dignitaries. She was also featured on the cover of Charisma Magazine as a premier mission's consultant. Dr. Bailey attended Victory World Missions Training Center, New Life Bible College; and received a master's degrees from Mt. Olive Seminary and Doctoral Degree from Cornerstone Christian University. She received the Esther Service Award, the Azusa Award for Global Leadership, and The Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award presented to her by President Barack Obama.

She is the proud mother of Karim and Mignonette Bailey, and the Yaya of three beautiful grandbabies Tia, Kingston and Christian Bailey



JENNIFER JORDAN CRUZ

Jennifer Jordan Cruz is an outstanding and prolific speaker. She has mentored many on the power to prevail in life as a wife, mother, businesswoman, humanitarian, pastor's wife, and a former Mrs. Illinois, United States.

Her personal journey of brokenness, facing Gender Based Violence and her triumph has provided inspiration to thousands and continues to do so through conferences, events, her Warriors Academy School and Warriors Circle Mentorship program. The Warriors Academy is currently bringing healing and empowerment to girls who have faced gender-based violence in the villages of Delmas, Soweto and Kliptown, located in South Africa. She believes in not only healing them, but also in empowering them.

Jennifer has authored five books, *God I'm Overwhelmed*, and *Broken Places Can Become the Sweetest Places*, just to name a few.

In addition, Jennifer has launched several business ventures, and most recently a mentoring platform that comes along side women that are looking to pick up the broken pieces and move forward.

All of her business ventures have helped support numerous missions around the world. The missions include countries like South Africa, Haiti, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

Jennifer co-pastors Faithworld Church in Chicago, IL alongside her husband, Pastor Daniel Cruz, for over 31 years. Together, they have five precious children, one who went to be with the Lord during Covid, and welcomed their first granddaughter.





"Once I stepped foot into the Eco-Village and seen the women and children, it completely changed me. Seeing their living conditions and hearing how men would break into their shante and assault them was heart wrenching. I'm so thankful for the Warriors Academy for providing the women a safe haven against abuse and getting them the healing and resources they need."

NORMA P. MARIN

"My heart was moved by the work being accomplished in South Africa. We were truly being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Hearing what the women and children go through each day broke us. But hearing the gratitude they have for the Warriors Academy humbled me and I'm forever thankful for being a part of the Change in South Africa. When I returned from the mission trip, the Lord blessed me by healing me from a inflammatory disease."

ONEYDA MERCADO

"In Klip Town the children greeted us with a traditional South African dance. A little girl from the village pulled my heart strings. She kept crying as Thando shared her story of being raped, as she cried all the little girls got into a circle and hugged her and cried together. The little girl looked so scared, so I hugged her as she cried, she had to be 5 years old or younger. When we were getting ready to leave, she held my leg and asked if I could take her to America. My heart broke hearing what these young girls had to endure. I'm so thankful for the Warriors Academy for fighting to make a difference."

IRIS SANTIAGO



SUPPORT

Support the Warriors Academy through a financial contribution!

For more information on how you can apply or donate towards our next mission trip, visit our website.

WWW.THEWARRIORSACADEMY.COM

Do You Need a Mentor?

JOIN THE WARRIORS TODAY!

We will never stop providing the best mentorship and training for women who desire to move forward and grow. It is my commitment and the entire Warriors Circle team to always provide the latest and most substantive mentorship on the local and international scene because we believe our Warriors deserve the best.

Jennifer Cruz

Founder of The Warriors Academy

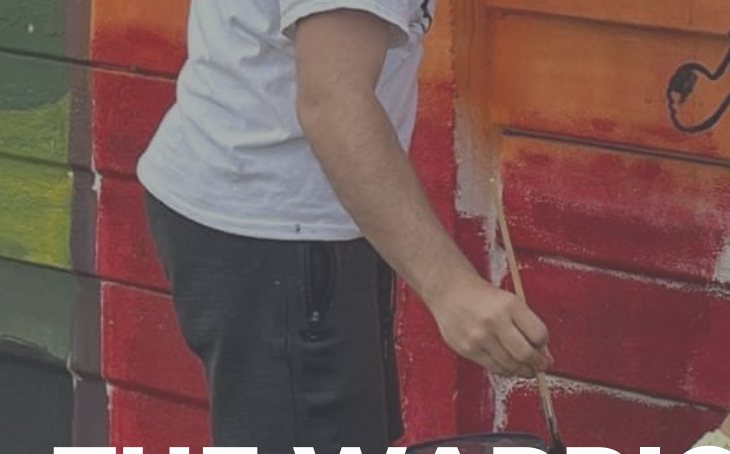
Scan to Join



I would love the opportunity to mentor you into the woman God has called you to be.

Enroll today for only \$20 a month. Your membership opens the door for weekly trainings and teachings guaranteed to bring healing and empowerment.

WC
The Warriors Circle



THE WARRIORS ACADEMY

"Picking up the broken pieces and moving forward"



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