

# giving voice to the voiceless

in the hospital for three days after having been shot once in her head and twice into her right arm.

By God's grace, and though paralyzed in her right arm for a year, she was able to leave the hospital without needing stitches or major surgery, and with a triumphant perspective on life.

Today, Valerie is an esteemed Advocate, Author, International Speaker and Workshop Presenter using her story to encourage and motivate others to take a stand against domestic/dating violence.

She wrote and published her first book, *God's Divine Intervention* in 2002 depicting the events of her life-threatening story that would lead to her current platform. In addition, Valerie self-published four books to include *Sweet Oil*



Valerie Williams, residing in Brunswick, Georgia, has a vision that is dedicated to educating and empowering women and young adults who find themselves in domestic situations.

Her mission isn't an easy task, but she presses forward to bring awareness to prioritizing one's individual efforts to prevent intimate partner violence.

"I work to create opportunities to help women and teens avoid violence in dating altogether," Valerie shared. "My hope is to inspire all to become overcomers by living beyond what has happened to them."

Often, people do not see the red flags or experience violent behavior leading up to a domestic altercation. Yes, research promotes facts and many experts suggest patterns, however, this wasn't the case for Valerie. In February 1996, she drove home like any other day, and tragically ended up

from a *Broken Vessel*, *Heart's Desire*, *Where are my Manners* and *The Flavor of A Woman* that is gifted with a custom car air freshener for women.

Every relationship is unique and different, so any warning signs of unhealthy behavior may be hard to identify, especially amongst young adults. Most are not blind to certain situations, but often they do not know that what they're experiencing is actually abuse. Some haven't been taught and simply do not know where to draw the line.

"I begin to notice that young people are getting into serious relationships too soon..." said Valerie, "without the proper understanding and knowledge of how healthy relationships work, their chances of becoming victims of abuse rises."

When Valerie developed LoveSmart, a program for ages 16-24, her aim was to teach young people about healthy relationships, both friendships and romantic unions, as well as how to identify toxicity within bonds and what to do if you or someone you know is in an abusive situation.

The LoveSmart program consists of workshops and presentations from overcomers of domestic violence. With completing her first tour in Summer 2018, Valerie took a huge leap to give LoveSmart a second home base in Nassau, Bahamas!

Although a busy mom, grandmother, speaker, presenter and advocate, Valerie still finds the time to pour into others. She teaches self-esteem curriculum for the Elizabeth Correll Teen Center



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for the Girl Power Teen Group in Brunswick, Georgia. She focuses specifically on teen dating violence, abstinence and self-worth.

She's also currently working on various projects, to include interactive workbooks for teenagers to continue the education they need to better their chances of ending the increasing epidemic of domestic violence.

There's so much more to Valerie. She has received the accolades and honoree awards, and has presented her platform on various stages within school systems, military bases, battered women's shelters, Trinity Broadcast Network (TBN), and college campuses including prominent HBCUs across the country. She continues to travel, encouraging people and giving voice to the voiceless.

She not only points people in the right direction, but Valerie walks with them. She encourages them and shows them that there is a way around, and out of domestic violence. Because she had the courage to stand up for herself, she now steps in for others.

To hear more of her story, to book for speaking engagements or to purchase books, please visit [www.valerielwilliams.org](http://www.valerielwilliams.org), or contact via email at [vwilliamsmotivatesu@yahoo.com](mailto:vwilliamsmotivatesu@yahoo.com) or [vwilliams898@gmail.com](mailto:vwilliams898@gmail.com).