



SCOTT SMITH

FAITH, HEALING AND A NEW MISSION:

Stacy Bogle's Journey

BY LINDA REEVES

Stacy Bogle married an outgoing man who was the life of every party. After a whirlwind romance, they married and welcomed four children, creating what seemed like a picture-perfect life. But over time, Stacy's happiness began to unravel when she realized her husband was an alcoholic.

"My husband struggled with alcohol," Stacy said. "His addiction broke me and our family. It was devastating to watch someone I loved change in ways that hurt us all."

Raised in a Catholic home in New Jersey, Stacy's early years were marked by a strong foundation of faith. "Mass, prayer and the sacraments were a big part of my life," she recalled.

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College, however, became a turning point. Immersed in studies, new friends and newfound independence, Stacy's faith cooled. "I became wrapped up in college life," she admitted. "I had freedom for the first time."

Her spiritual journey shifted dramatically when her father was diagnosed with cancer. His passing deeply affected her, prompting her to return to her faith more fully. "I was lost and broken. I ran back to the church, finding comfort in God's love," she said.

In her 20s, Stacy met and quickly married the man she believed was her Prince Charming. The couple started a family, actively raising their children in the Catholic faith. "We were committed to passing on the faith to our children," Stacy said.

However, as time passed, Stacy realized her marriage and family were in trouble. What began as her husband's occasional couple of drinks at gatherings slowly escalated into frequent, heavy drinking. "I was aware my husband was a big drinker. He liked to party a lot, but I overlooked it early on. I figured he would outgrow it, but instead, it only progressed. It was a slow progression that snuck up on me."

The Bogles moved to Florida eight years ago. Stacy continued working as a sales professional, while her husband became a stay-at-home dad to spend more time with his sons. However, his binge drinking persisted, troubling their children, who loved their dad.

Desperate for help, Stacy urged him to seek help. "He always said, 'I'm a functional alcoholic,' refusing to acknowledge the depth of his problem," she said.

With her marriage crumbling, Stacy found solace in her faith. She turned to the church for strength, regularly attending

healing Masses, adoration and confession. "I was hurting, but I knew that God was my refuge," she said. "I found strength in the sacraments, and they became my lifeline during that painful time."

Stacy's husband's addiction affected the whole family. "Alcoholism doesn't just affect one person," she explained. "We were all impacted emotionally and mentally."

Feeling trapped, Stacy reached out to a rosary group at St. John Paul II in Ponte Vedra. "I was at my breaking point," she admitted. During one prayer meeting, she broke down and shared everything. A fellow member who had also faced addiction in her family offered support. "It was a relief to find someone who understood," Stacy said.

This connection led her to a support group for people affected by addiction. Initially hesitant, Stacy was reluctant to be labeled but needed help. "I saw that I wasn't alone," she said.

Eventually, after 26 years, her marriage

ended in divorce in 2018. "It was heartbreaking, but I knew it was the right decision," she said. "I needed to focus on my own healing and my children's well-being."

Determined to deepen her relationship with God, Stacy attended a retreat at the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine. There, she experienced a profound spiritual awakening. "I felt Jesus' presence," she said. "I heard a voice say, 'Bring souls to me for healing addiction.' It was a calling."

With encouragement and support from friends, Stacy founded the Grace and Recovery Foundation, a nonprofit that helps people affected by addiction. "The foundation was born from my desire to help others find hope and healing," she said.

Over the past four years, Grace and Recovery has grown, offering retreats, support groups and resources for families and individuals. "I'm grateful to see the impact it's having," Stacy said.

Today, Stacy's four sons – Johnny, Ryan,

Ben and Chase, now ages 15 to 25 – are doing well. "They are my biggest supporters," she said. "We've been through so much together, and our bond is stronger because of it."

Stacy remains focused on her mission to help others and continues to deepen her faith. "I'm pursuing more studies in faith and ministry," she said. "I want to stay focused on the path God has set for me."

Her advice for others facing a loved one's addiction? "Run to the church and surrender everything to God," she said. "Trust in his mercy and love. It's the only way to find true hope and healing." 🕊



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For more information about the Grace and Recovery Foundation, call (732) 425-7949, email stacy@graceandrecovery.org or visit www.graceandrecovery.org.



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