



March 1, 2019

Dear Friends,

This month Danny and I have the privilege of sharing with you a testimony from one very special young lady, Grace. When Grace moved onto the farm March, 2017, struggling with a severe eating disorder and self-harm, I went to bed that night asking the Lord to just keep her alive.

Today, two years later, Grace and her mother are visiting their farm family (that's us). Grace is now healthy and a very beautiful 17-year-old young lady with a heart of gold and a passion for God and a passion for truth and is a deep well of God's mercy and love. I asked Grace if she'd like to share a bit of her journey and she was happy to do so. This is her story.

RETURNING HOME

“With my whole heart, with my whole life, and with my innermost being, I bow in wonder and love before you, the holy God! Yahweh, you are my soul's celebration. How could I ever forget the miracles of kindness you've done for me? You kissed my heart with forgiveness, in spite of all I've done. You've healed me inside and out from every disease. You've rescued me from hell and saved my life. You've crowned me with love and mercy.” Psalm 103:1-4 (TPT)

This scripture reflects my Papa God, Holy Spirit and Yeshua walking with me daily, and the overcoming testimony of my life in Him. Truly, this is His story, how He drew me back to Himself, to return Home. It tells of how He taught me to rest with Him, to fall in love with Him and how He taught my heart to beat for what His beats for, and with Him... I am Home.



Papa God gave to me two beautiful parents, placing me in a family that knows and loves Him deeply and dearly. I was raised in a loving, safe home. My parents were intentional in raising my siblings and me in the Lord. At 5 years old, I gave my heart and my life to Yeshua.

The storm begins... At 5, I began taking ballet and trained in dance for the next 10 years. As I grew up, I became distractingly aware of my physique, and extremely self-conscious. As one can imagine, dancing in front of a mirror, in tight clothing with 15 other girls, in an atmosphere of competition, didn't necessarily encourage my heart. But I chose to continue dancing because, I loved it! When I danced, I felt God's Presence. I fell in love with Him and with dancing because of it.

The storm builds... At age 9, we had a group of neighborhood friends that my siblings and I often spent time with. As we grew through our tumultuous pre-teen years, I began to voice my thoughts, opinions, and stood up for what I knew was right in the Lord's eyes. As a result, deep rejection, pain and hurt entered my sensitive and tender heart, solidifying lies the enemy had already begun to plant. At 11 years of age, I wrote in my journal that I wanted to kill myself. I LOVED my family and I loved the Lord. In the midst of my pain, they were present and Daddy God would come and encounter me daily. He became my dearest and best friend. I knew He saw everything that was happening and He loved me. Even so, the pain in my heart increased. I struggled with depression and felt suicidal for two more years. Little did I realize, there was a perfect storm of pain, festering below the surface that would soon cause my heart to implode. It started to unravel just before my 14th birthday. The pain from circumstances inside the studio, the lies, my constant struggle with the way I looked, as well as rejection from my peer group, led me to my first drug of choice: Anorexia. This horrid disease is first chosen, but very soon becomes an addiction, and locks on, attempting to take out the person in the addiction. Within months, I was deathly sick.

The sickness stole my ability to dance. I plummeted, spiraling down into self-harm. I remember thinking, “Now they will see with their eyes how much they hurt me.” With the load of shame I felt, I didn't want anyone to see what I'd done. So, began years of hiding and extreme shut down-physically, mentally and spiritually. I wouldn't eat in front of anyone, I'd hide if someone came to our home, I clothed myself from head to toe and often would lay in a fetal position as anorexia continued to consume my body, brain and every other aspect of my life. Self-harm increased to the point that I'd wake up in the middle of the night to give myself a false relief from my emotional pain. I remember lying in bed one night, scarcely able to breathe from my lack of food, feeling death breathing down my neck, silent tears streaming down my face, I thought I was going to stop breathing in my sleep. I wanted to die, and I wanted the eating disorder to do it. Hitting a new low, I began operating and living life with OCD. I don't mean just making sure the napkins were stacked straight, it controlled even my breathing patterns. I could barely walk, or open a door because of the bondage. My mom spent most of each day just trying to get me to eat.

Before I got sick, we had heard of Harvest Home through a friend. So, my parents brought me to the farm. March 13th, 2017, was my first day away from home without my parents. I didn't want to be on the farm and I didn't want healing, but I was too tired to fight. I was introduced to horse encounters and God encounters. And truly, Yeshua would come and reveal Himself to me every time. But it was difficult as the strongholds and yuck inside of me began to be unearthed. I barely left the house for 3 ½ months. I'd hide behind counters if anyone came to the door. My wonderful house leader sat with me faithfully for 10 hours every day and fed me, made me laugh and told me stories as I'd try to eat. My body began convulsing before each meal, which I didn't know at the time, is one of the last stages of this sickness before you die.

One day, Yeshua miraculously broke through in an encounter. I went home to eat lunch and, without even thinking about it, ate my meal in 20 minutes! I couldn't believe it. How? God kept encountering me and I began to wonder if I'd ever really known this beautiful Man at all. Rhonda told me one day that the key to my healing was to fall in love with God. My house leader started reading Rhonda's book, *The Bride* to me and my heart started falling for Him in the very first chapter. I was falling in love! With God, Yeshua and Comforter!

In the summer, my parents planned a family vacation to the beach, which is a place I've always loved for many reasons. Surprisingly, Rhonda and her family had just booked the same week at the same beach. The Lord gave Rhonda the idea to stay an extra week with her husband, Danny, so we could have significant time to encounter the Lord. Rhonda took me out on the beach 6 days in a row, for hours at a time. The first day, Yeshua, this perfect Man, encountered me in a face to face manner, and that was the day I fell in love with Him and I've never been the same. The little girl in me, told God that if He wears His scars openly, then I will too. The next day I wore a t-shirt and shorts—my scars were obvious.

The second day on the beach God really changed everything. In my imagination, Yeshua led me to a beautiful, safe temple near the King's Garden. It was inside this massive temple hallway, I called out, "Yeshua." I looked up and the King was walking towards me, beaming from ear-to-ear. I ran to Him throwing my arms around His neck and held on as tight as I could, longing to show Him how much I loved Him. I fell at His feet, clinging to His ankles. This wasn't enough—how could I tell Him how much I love Him? I hugged His waist and then threw myself at His feet again. I cried out, "Oh, how can I show You how much I love You?" I laid face-down on my hands and knees. He knelt in front of me and slid a plate of food underneath my face and said, "If you love Me, eat." His voice sounded like thunder echoing through the temple. In that moment, I was stuck between The Rock and His Love. He had been wooing my heart, devastating me with Himself. He had prepared me for this moment, intoxicated me until I was sick with love and then asked me, "Will you return to your First Love? Will you give up and leave behind the thing(s) that you have made god in your life? Those things you have chosen to love more than Me? I long for all of you, I want every part of you, no compromises anymore."

I couldn't tell Rhonda what He was asking me to do so I silently told the Lord, "If this is what you are really saying, please tell Rhonda and have her say it to me." Seconds later, Rhonda looked at me and said that she heard Yeshua's voice thunder through the temple saying, "If you love Me, obey Me. If you love Me, eat." I couldn't believe my ears!

I returned back home to the farm a different person. I wore short sleeves, ate for the first time with all of the other resident girls, my heart had a permanent smile which penetrated my countenance and my heart was in love. There were many more months of healing ahead, but Yeshua was with me. I remember one evening, I found myself feeling that familiar feeling of not wanting to eat enough food. Suddenly, Rhonda grabbed a pen and paper and began writing very fast. I will never forget what she wrote: "Ask Grace not to eat for herself, but to eat for Me because I live inside of her and I'm hungry." Oh, how those words pierced and kissed my heart. In Dec., 2017, I returned home with my family and every day is a surprising, stretching and beautiful adventure with Him. The longing of my life is to live in a continuous state of encountering Him. Walking with Him hand in hand, face to face, heart to heart with the One I love. He is my Home and always will be.

2019 TRAINING SCHEDULE

All trainings are offered on a donation basis.

- God Encounter Training is 9AM-5PM Friday and Saturday. This is the #1 method used on Our Father's Farm to cultivate an intimate, experiential relationship with God. These encounters with God heal the deepest traumas and transform the human heart. There is no housing for these two days but lunch and afternoon snacks are provided.
- Advanced Training begins on Sunday evening with orientation dinner at 6PM and ends at 5 PM the following Friday. This training is so much more than equipping people to facilitate God Encounter sessions. The training includes daily classes based on biblical truths relevant to healing. You will also receive and practice facilitating God Encounter sessions in a small group with one of our trained facilitators.
- Housing and meals are provided on a donation basis for the Advanced Training only. We do limit the number of attendees—to guarantee you a place, we recommend you register early.

2019 TRAINING DATES

GOD ENCOUNTER TRAINING: **March 8-9**
ADVANCED TRAINING: **March 24-29**

GOD ENCOUNTER TRAINING: **Sept. 6-7**
ADVANCED TRAINING: **Sept. 22-27**

GOD ENCOUNTER TRAINING: **May 3-4**
ADVANCED TRAINING: **June 2-7**

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