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Fall/Winter 2023 • Issue 41





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MANDY
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Liz Osburn, a Ware County High School band student, was selected to the Georgia Music Educators All-State Orchestra after auditioning recently in McDonough, GA. Liz is a senior trombone player and participates in the Golden Gator Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Wind Ensemble at Ware County High School. She has been selected to numerous honor bands throughout high school, including District Honor Band, District Jazz Band, Region Honor Band, and the UGA JanFest Honor Band. Liz has put in an immense amount of practice and preparation time at home and after school in the band room, gone through two rounds of auditions against over 10,000 band students throughout the entire state of Georgia. She has been selected among the best of the best in the state - making the 11/12 GMEA All-State Orchestra. Liz was chosen as one of only four tenor trombone players to earn a position in the orchestra. This event is held in the Athens Classic Center and consists of bands and orchestras from middle school, 9/10 and 11/12. Making the All-State orchestra in high school is seen as one of the highest, if not the highest, individual musical achievements that one can attain.

Congratulations to Liz on her outstanding achievement. Liz is the daughter of Andrea and David Osburn.



Natalie Herrin (l), one of our granddaughters is shown with her roommate, Nuria Cunill. Ria is a senior and her hometown is Berga, Spain. She wears #22 and is majoring in Psychology. Natalie played at PCHS and lives in Patterson. Her number is 1 as she had that number for many years. We had a great and wonderful time visiting over Christmas. Ria and Natalie play for Presbyterian College in South Carolina. Go Blue Hose.

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We want to thank you for your support during these 41 issues. We look forward to many more. You all make it worthwhile. We have some very good content this issue. We hope you enjoy.

Sharon & Dave Callaway

Congratulations!

Pierce County High School
Class AA Football
State Champions

Group photo:

Cecil Copeland

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2 Chronicles 7:14


WAYCROSS-WARE COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



WARE COUNTY GATORS



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Congratulations!
2023-24 Ware County
Teacher of the Year
Brandy Holland.
Brandy is shown with
Superintendent Bert
Smith.



**Go
Gators!**

Ware County Golden Gator Marching Band



Stephanie Rios
2023 Brantley County Homecoming Queen



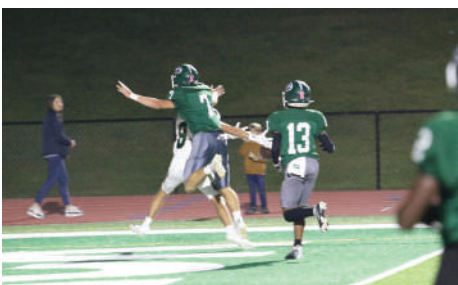
Esmeralda Santana
2023 Pierce County Homecoming Queen

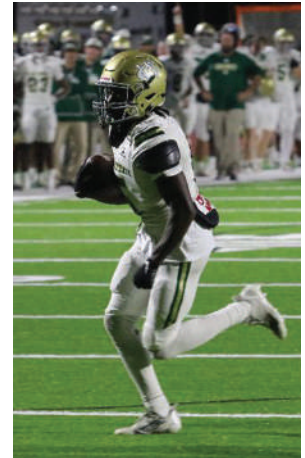


Nadiyah Nicloe Gordon
2023 WCHS Homecoming Queen









Congratulations! Waycross Middle School 2023 SGMSAC 8th Grade Basketball Champions.



Announcing the second book in the
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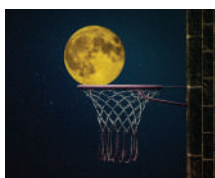
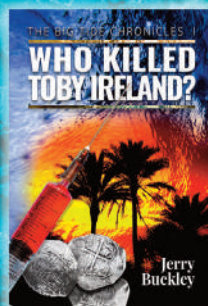
With his unique storytelling skills, *Jerry Buckley* will
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BIG TIDE CHRONICLES, **Who Killed Toby Ireland?**

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want to leave. Discover the charm and intrigue
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Congratulations! Ware
County Middle School 2023
SGMSAC Wrestling and
6-7th grade Basketball
Champions.



Congratulations! John Chancey
2023 Golden Isles Bass Masters
Angler of the Year





Michael L. Todd

c: **912.816.0192**

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COMMISSIONS • PORTRAITS
PETS & PEOPLE • LANDSCAPES
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... I paint with passion, all my paintings mean something to me & I want to share this with you

Michael Todd is an artist who has a great passion for painting. After working for over three decades, at the US Postal Service, with 12 of those years being as a postmaster, he decided to pursue his passion for painting. He is happily married to his wife, Holley Todd, for over 30 years and together they have four children. Now retired, he has been creating beautiful paintings for many years now and has gained a lot of recognition for his work. *Michael* is a skilled artist who has the ability to capture the essence of a subject in his paintings.

Over the years, *Michael* has had a very successful career in the postal service, however, his love for painting never faded and he continued to create art in his free time. *Michael* has more time to devote to his hobby and he is thoroughly enjoying every moment of it. His dedication to painting is evident in the quality of his work and the level of detail he puts into each piece.

These are just a few samples of his work but he loves painting portraits, pets, people, landscapes and any commissions from photos.

Cotton Candy Sunset

A little about this painting

Sunsets in the Caribbean can produce vivid colors as depicted from a photographic reference furnished by Jacklyn Stewart Gahli. Painted in 2022 the scene conjures up a peaceful evening of music, food, and good company as the catamarans hover on the water reflecting the beauty of a night in the Bahamas. Bring the stress-free atmosphere to a place you love in a print or the currently available original.



Uninhibited

A little about this painting

Uninhibited is a progressive painting that required several opportunities to finish. I started the project from a simple boat but wanted to represent life as a journey that needs to have freedom but also with the knowledge of anchors or boundaries or stability. I did not fully complete this painting until the third show I took it to, and the finish was to add the tether line with slack to represent the anchor that is not restrictive. I could have sold it many times, but it just was not complete which is a full reflection of the message the painting means to me. It may speak differently for you and that's perfectly fine.



Sunflower in the Mist

A little about this painting

Introducing "Sunflower in the Mist," a mesmerizing painting that adds contrast to your space. Created with acrylic on a silver metallic canvas, this original piece is currently available for sale. The vibrant sunflower stands out amidst a misty backdrop, evoking a sense of tranquility and natural beauty. Prints of this are also available, allowing you to bring the enchanting allure of this painting into your home. Explore the range of prints available online at my site.



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serva is delighted to be working closely with Michael on his new projects. We could be doing the same for your business.

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Diane Brown

Artist / Fashion Designer / Retail Manager, Retired



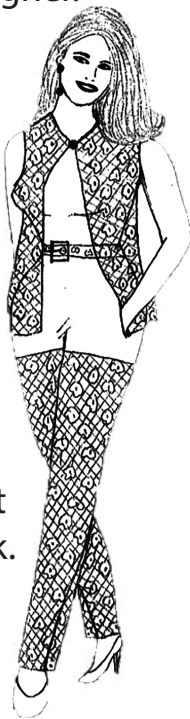
Retired retail fashion manager and digital artist, Mrs. Diane Brown is proud to present her fashion and romantic artistic designs to the general public here in Waycross / Ware County. Always a lover of fashion design and having worked in the retail fashion industry for more than 35 years, Diane Brown turned to the computer, using it as a tool to express her professional desires. Embracing Adobe Photoshop and using a scanner and printer as well as other tools like colored pencils gave Brown the right tools at the right time. Having done numerous fashion drawings and other romantic designs all her life led, this artist to perform with a high degree of expression.

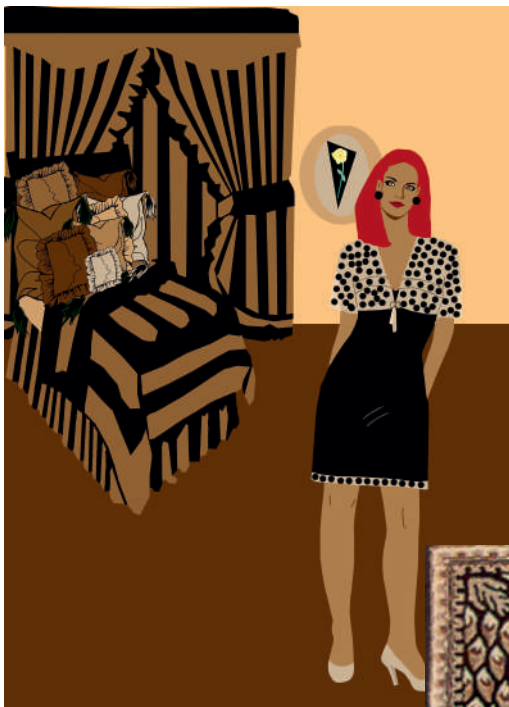
Since being a little girl, Diane Brown wanted to become a fashion designer.

This Mother of three (3) grown children turned to fashion design as a way to express herself. With her children gone and the emptiness freed her to find other interests. Having raised her children, Brown could now devote the time to her art. She would spend many hours in front of her computer. This ritual became a way of relaxing and getting away from the many duties and stresses of being a retail store manager.

My Process:

To the viewer who might be reading this. I am asked quite often about how I do my art? What is your process? I felt that this would be a great time to address the many questions that people ask about my art work. Generally I start out with a small simple sketch, usually done with a graphite pencil on white paper of my designs. I then work on various color studies to find the right colors for the finish. These variations and combinations helps me to know just what color combinations I want the finish piece of digital art to look like. When I have found the color combinations that I like and want, it is at that point I go to photoshops.





Bedtime #2



Beautiful Patterns # 11



Framed Beautifully # 7



Diane Brown

1001 Hill Street, Waycross, GA 31501

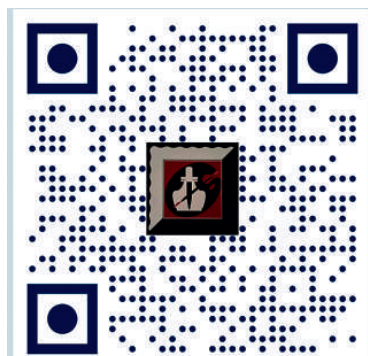
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Beautiful Patterns # 2



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Beautiful Patterns # 6



Be Mine



Flowers for my flower

Diane Brown

Artist / Fashion Designer / Retail Manager, Retired

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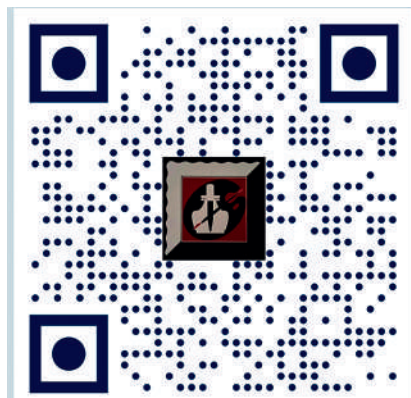
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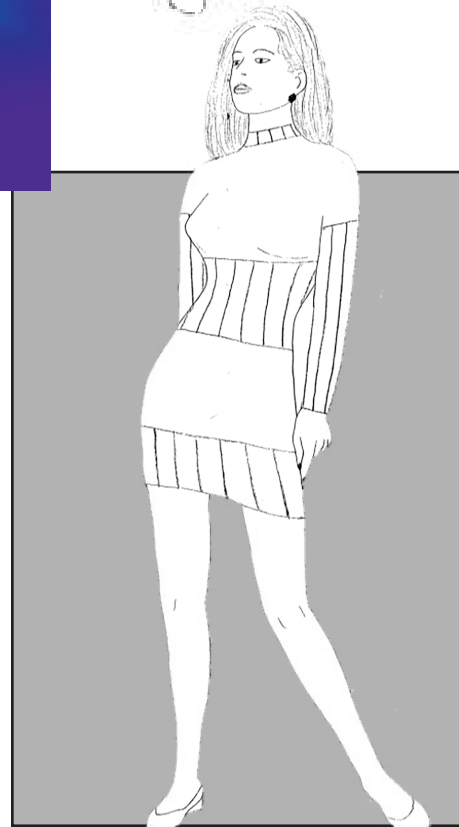


A flower for my lady



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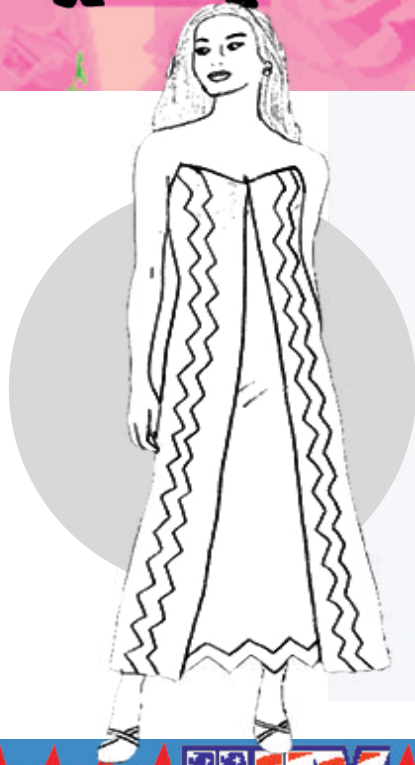
Happy Valentines Day my love



A big "THANK YOU" to
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allowing me to
INTRODUCE
my new logo,
She's Called
LADI DY



Happy New Year



Diane Brown
Artist/Fashion Designer



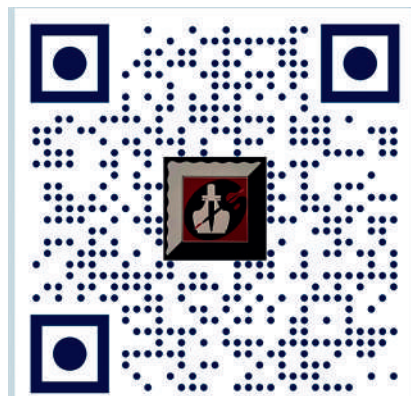
Happy 4th of July

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Happy Halloween

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He who calls us is Faithful. We Do Recover!

by Jessica Burkhardt

From Sex, Drugs, and Rock-n-Roll to Healed, Free, and Whole

How does anyone radically changed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ begin to tell how God's love carried them in every season of darkness and into the light? I love that every story is unique, tailored just for each soul to be a voice of freedom and hope. Sadly, not everyone experiences the revelation of needing a Savior. Through my life story, it is my prayer that you sense the power of God's love that sets us free from ourselves and the vices of our enemy.

I can only tell you where I am if I tell you where I've been. Here is my story.

I grew up in the small town of Blackshear, Georgia, in a trailer park called "The Hood." It was around age 5 when I began to feel the mental effects of watching my parents drink alcohol and do drugs regularly. At the age of 6, I was exposed to pornography, and this affected my ability to understand my place in relationships and would later lead to promiscuity. My parents were loving people and great providers, and they loved my brother and I the best they knew how. My childhood was filled with fantastic birthday parties, family vacations, and exciting traditional holidays. The hard part was watching my parents functioning through their addictions, arguing, all-night parties, and toxic lifestyles of sex, drugs, and rock-n-roll.

However, my Grandparents were people of faith. Their house was my favorite place to go every weekend. On Friday afternoon, I would sit on the doorstep with my suitcase and expectedly wait for them to pick me up. My briefcase was red, with the words "I'm going to Grandma's" on it. I was proud of that special suitcase. It was my most prized possession as a child. I could escape to Grandma's house. I felt safe, and my imagination would come to life. My Grandparent's house was peaceful and structured. There, I felt things I didn't feel at home. My dearest childhood memories are our Friday night Domino's Pizza and Dairy Queen adventure, Saturday shopping, and Sunday church. I am eternally grateful for their investment of time and prayer into my life. Faith-praying people are essential to the world.



In the chaos, I found a friend and comfort in food. By age 10, I was overweight and was called "Big Girl". Hearing those two small words became a part of me and brought me to a mental state of insecurity. The lies of Satan started influencing my ability to know my worth. I started smoking cigarettes and skipping school in Junior High. I would attach myself to anything or anyone who helped me escape the dysfunction of home life and the feeling of being unseen, unheard, and unvalued.

I lost my virginity at the age of 12, which started a pattern of compulsive sexual behavior in my life. Furthermore, stealing alcohol from my parent's liquor cabinet and smoking marijuana became a regular activity.

April 29, 1997, was the day that marked a traumatic shift for me, my brother, and my mom. I was a sophomore in high school when my dad was killed in an automobile accident. Cause of death: drinking and driving. Life took a rapid turn towards a downward spiral. I didn't understand how to grieve or how to process anything that was happening. Before I was 18, I had lost all control of my drinking and marijuana use. This is the phase where it was considered fun. There isn't an advertisement that tells us the fun will stop, and your addiction will tell you that you want it, need it, and it needs you. This is the ultimate plan of Satan himself: to kill, steal, and destroy.

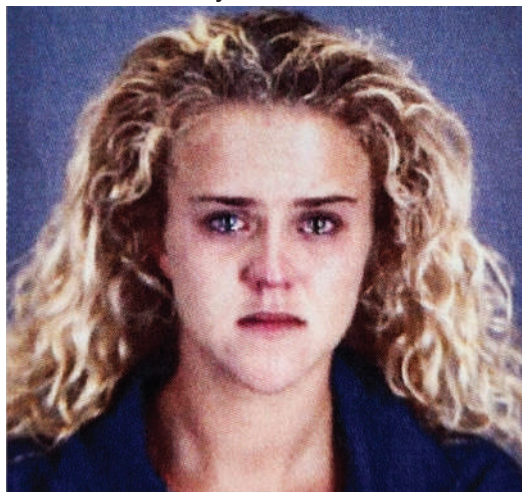
After graduating high school, I would begin a 20-year road to becoming someone I didn't know. And frankly, I didn't want to know. It was too painful. Honestly, I never really "knew" who I was. Always overly obsessed with my weight and looks, I was driven by a toxic motivation to stay slim and trim on the outside while the inside stayed broken and confused. I started using ecstasy before I was 20, and it was my gateway to all the drugs I could get my hands on. My drug of choice was anything that would help me not feel reality. Whatever that was. At this point, I was still having fun, unable to realize I was an addict. ME? An addict. Not one of "those people". The ones I would look down on because "get it together," right? I continued living the only lifestyle I had known—sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll.

Over the next 20 years, I would experience marriage, children, 13 arrests, divorces, a traumatic abortion, betrayal, and verbal, physical, and sexual abuse. Guilt and shame would become my closest companions. You get the picture.

In the meantime, at the beginning of my adult life, my mom and brother finally had enough and chose to get sober. They both received Jesus Christ into their lives and have never been the same.

So, when I talk about praying, mamas and grandmas are essential; this is where my mom, as well as my family, started praying for my life to be healed. They were breaking generational curses with the choice to get sober and live free from the rusty chains of addictions. I would attend church with them from time to time. I found myself at the altar each time. I would weep uncontrollably and leave hopeful for anything better. This continued for several years. This church was one of those sweet little country Baptist churches with a faithful prayer list. Oh, I was on it.

For years, as a matter of fact. There is power in prayer! In 2004, I wanted a fresh start. I moved to Savannah, Georgia, in hopes to start being a productive adult. The partying continued, and I was going deeper down into the spiral. The fun was still there, but now it was a necessity. I couldn't have fun without it! The vicious cycle was in play, and I believed every lie that it was normal because it was "all I had ever known." "It's supposed to be this way," I would tell myself about the morning after a blackout drunken night. I started dating the man who would be my children's biological father. I was 23 years old and five months pregnant when he and I married in May 2005.



We moved back to my hometown of Blackshear and started building a life together. My husband and I both drank alcohol and used drugs before meeting, so we continued the familiar pattern that we knew. At age 24, I became a mother to my son Chandler on September 3, 2005, and that day, my life began to feel like it had meaning. I knew that I didn't want my children to grow up in an environment like I had, but I didn't know how to make it happen. I would try not to drink or use until the weekends, but it doesn't work that way when substances have been a part of your daily routine. As a result of our lifestyle, my husband and I divorced two years later. My drug of choice became cocaine, and that stronghold took me further than I wanted to go and kept me longer than I wanted to stay.

A year later, my ex-husband and I remarried, and the following year, in March 2009, I gave birth to my daughter Jaylyn. She brought joy and hope to my life. I consciously stayed clean for two months, always planning 'when' I would use it again in my mind. That was the stronghold at work. The extra weight gain while pregnant was consuming my mind. Indeed, I knew how to get the weight off quickly. The same voices since childhood of having to be thin and put together on the outside screamed louder than they ever had. Who would accept me if I wasn't an admirable weight to everyone around me? The truth was, I didn't take me.

I became a functioning addict with a selfish drive to manipulate to get whatever I wanted. By age 30, I had been arrested three times due to driving under the influence and a felony charge for three



possessions of cocaine. After the felony arrest, I was sober for one year. I had received Jesus into my life and was active in church with my family until I relapsed again. Then again. Continuing in the vicious cycle of unhealed pain and trauma left me empty and angry. Over the next few years, I became a hostage to fear. My husband and I were never able to achieve healing in our marriage. All the while, my children were suffering because I was suffering. Yet again, I was self-motivated to “keep it together” because no one desires their loved ones to see them fail over and over. Faking it till we make it will kill us, and I was dead inside. I longed to be a mother my kids could be proud of and depend on.

During the timeline of my early thirties, I endured toxic relationships that left me desperate for real love. I became a victim of abuse, and during that, I became pregnant. This would be when fear became my best friend. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you did something you swore you would never do? Me too. I didn’t believe in abortion, but I did believe in fear. My hardest decision was to have a surgical abortion at 19 weeks pregnant. There wasn’t an ounce of clarity in my mind that would let me make a sound decision in any aspect of life. Soon after, I was arrested. Upon release, I started in the Drug Court Judicial Program. For the first time, I was experiencing new desires for a new way of life. At this point, I was still attending church, still weeping at the altar every time.

We must get to the root of our hurts, habits, and hangups to avoid repeating the same cycle. We can’t and won’t choose better until we genuinely know better! Once more, I felt the pull to be attached to someone and something. Co-dependency, insecurity, control, and unprocessed pain are a recipe for danger. I was in another relationship that quickly became abusive, and I eventually stopped showing up to Drug Court, which meant the police wanted me for failure to appear. This was my rock bottom. On the run. Wide open. Through all the drama and trauma, I kept putting every effort into “keeping it together” on the outside. If everything appeared OK, my kids and family would believe I was OK—another slick trick of our enemy.



I was arrested and sent to the Women's Probation Detention Center with the Georgia Department of Corrections. My first taste of what prison would be like. After serving, I was released into the Drug Court Judicial Program. I felt strong and confident for the first time. It was a new beginning! I never went back to using drugs, but the alcohol kept chasing me. It was only a matter of time before I found myself drowning in another toxic relationship with a few more trips to the county jail. The cycle continued. Sex. Drugs. Rock-n-roll.



It was January 21, 2017, when I took what I thought was "just another trip to jail." Since I was a regular, I would be assigned the same bed every other week or two. The Drug Court sentenced me to 10 days and informed me it was my last time before I would go "up the road," as the Judge called it. For those who don't know, "up the road" is prison. Within those days, I began to feel something shifting inside of me. I was experiencing the "sick and tired of being sick and tired" condition. I had done a lot of time in 20 years, but nothing compared to these ten days.

I begged God to change my situation to keep me from failing again and, this time, go to prison. Instead, He began to change me. The veil was lifted from my eyes, and for the first time, I could see the steps I had to take to create the new life I desperately wanted. I was ready to surrender everything once and for all.

The first step was the hardest. That first step meant cutting off all relationships and contact with all the people, places, and things that would only be a hindrance to making progress. I was consistent with saying "no" when the old friends would call. As a matter of fact, I became intentional with ignoring anyone or anything that jeopardized my healing. I did not just want to be sober; I wanted to be FREE! This was my time.



It was Valentine's Day that same year, three weeks since the last ride to the county jail when I had my first date with the man who is now my husband. Bill is a godly man and a considerable part of the restoration in my story. He accepted me right where I was. The same way Jesus did. I wasn't sure how someone who had never experienced a lifestyle like mine would be interested in someone as broken as me. I learned to accept Jesus' love and began to heal, which allowed me to see my worth for the first time. I learned how to receive His grace and give it to myself as a stepping stone to keep moving forward. In my restoration process, there were several behaviors and attitudes that had to be unlearned for me to be successful in recovery and my relationship with my children and family. I had to learn boundaries and how and when to apply them. Healing is not easy, and it hurts. Years of damage take time to repair. I didn't know what my life would look like, but I knew I had looked back for the last time. I was finally moving forward. The Bible tells us in Joel 2:25 that God will restore the years that the locust has eaten. This promise has been fulfilled in my life.



this, the Lord has shown me areas that need more profound healing, and that's OK. His Word promises that He will see the work He starts inside us to completion.

I successfully graduated from the Drug Court Program later in 2017. The following year, Bill and I were married, and we recently celebrated five years of holy matrimony. Three years ago, on this journey, Bill adopted my two children, Chandler and Jaylyn. My relationships with my mom and family have been restored. Again, because of the promise of Joel 2:25 and so many others!

I often think about the people who prayed for my healing and spoke life into my lifeless situations time and time again—the ones who visited me through the doors that only God could open. I have been given glory in my story. I have been given the opportunity to lead women's recovery groups and treatment facility. He allows me to be a part of the Jail Ministry Team and share my experiences, strength, and hope with women who are where I once was so many times.



that God used along the way who brought me into my lifeless situations time and time again in my darkest seasons. I think about how He's given me platforms to share His love and the privileges to experience work in a women's ministry as a part of the Jail Ministry Team and hope with women who are where I

The grace, mercy, and love of Jesus have radically transformed me from the inside out. He has done more than I could ever ask, think, or imagine (another promise fulfilled). Through the Bible, prayer, and devotion, He has given me strategic tools to fight against Satan and live life to the fullest. I remember well who I used to be and how I would try to get sober and stay sober on my own. I was never successful until I surrendered.

I am a Certified Christian Life Recovery Coach with a deep passion for loving people right where they are. No matter where their where is. I love being available to those in the trenches or in the healing. I want others to see they are unconditionally loved by their Creator no matter what and they have purpose in this life. My prayer is that I represent Jesus, recovery, and restoration well. Through my story, God has birthed the call to be a Recovery Pastor in me. My account will continue to be a light to those in dark chains of despair as I endure my race and finish well. I can only tell you where I am if I tell you where I've been. To tell you my story is to say to you of Jesus.





Jack Lingenfelter, son of Nathan and Kellie Lingenfelter, recently competed at the 96th Annual National FFA Convention where he won First Place in Agricultural Communications Proficiency, one of 45 FFA proficiency competitions. Jack competed against 20 other FFA members from across the country. Agricultural Proficiency awards are based on a member's Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). They recognize individual skills and career-based competencies developed through multiple years of participation in Immersion type SAE projects. In the area of Entrepreneurship & Placement, the Agricultural Communications Proficiency covers a wide range of media disciplines that promote ag-related businesses or enterprises. During Covid, Jack developed and produced a new podcast, *The Straws That Stir The Drinks*, that promoted FFA and the agricultural industry. The podcast is a collection of conversations from national and state FFA officers, elected officials, farmers, agriscience educators and FFA members. He also coordinates a social media channel promoting the podcast. Jack, now a freshman student at UGA, was an active member of the Coffee High FFA.

Celebrating 47 years of dedication and service as Sonny and Danny Yarbrough, the dynamic brother duo, carry forward their family legacy at Yarbrough's Office Products & Printing for an impressive 91 years!



From the early days of printing to seamlessly blending office supplies and furniture in the 1950s, the Yarbroughs have not only embraced tradition but set new standards for customer service and community connection.

Overnight delivery of office supplies? That's not just a service; it's a commitment to exceeding expectations. "We have to provide exemplary service to stay competitive," says Sonny, and their actions speak volumes.

At the heart of their philosophy, Danny recalls an old saying taped to their manual cash register: "The reason people pass one door to patronize another store is not because the busier shop has better goods or cheaper prices...it lies in pleasant words and smiling eyes.

The only difference is the treatment folks receive." Beyond the business, Sonny's daily visits to customers extend their reach as more than just suppliers. It's a personal touch that defines their success, making Yarbrough's Office Products & Printing a name synonymous with trust and reliability.

While rooted in tradition, the company embraces the future with a vast online inventory of over 27,000 items. It's a perfect blend of old-fashioned warmth and modern efficiency!

Jeanette's Favorite Recipes

Jeanette is the oldest child born to Elzie and Doris Carter in Baxley, Georgia. Her father was a Baptist minister, and her mother was a homemaker and seamstress. At an early age, Jeanette was responsible for preparing supper at the end of every weekday. Her professional cooking career started in the early 70s when she and her then-husband, Daniel, moved from Jesup, Georgia, to Waycross, where they bought a convenience store near the football stadium. Part of the store was converted into a kitchen where she made and sold cakes, cinnamon rolls, and sandwiches.

A few years later, she purchased the Downtown Sandwich Shop on Tebeau Street. There, she prepared breakfast and then lunch, featuring soups, sandwiches, and cakes. The shop closed at 2 pm, but Jeanette's work was not over. She stayed several hours making cakes for sale. She soon became known as a cake maker extraordinaire.

Jeanette soon began catering all over South Georgia. On one occasion, she catered an event for the local railroad, feeding 5,000 railroad officials and their families. Jeanette's success helped her raise her five sons. She rarely missed one of their high school and college football games.

Besides this, she was an active member of Central Baptist Church. She also served on the boards of the YMCA, Okefenokee Heritage Center, and Hospice Satilla. She taught Cake Decorating and Catering classes at Okefenokee Technical School for several years.

While cooking and catering was Jeanette's profession, her true love has always been focused on her family of 5 sons and their wives; Steve and Shonda, Stan and Jennie, Scott and Shea, Shannon and Kris, Stuart and Summer. She has 12 grandchildren: Amanda, Jake, Steven, Jada, Jared, Sterling, Oake, Jessica, Seth, Lillie, Trinity, and Drew. She is also proud of her four great-grandchildren: Harper Rae, Faith, Coleman, and Mary Grace.

Jeanette has long desired to write a cookbook, and now, with much encouragement from her family and friends, that desire has been fulfilled. **Her cookbook, Jeanette's Favorite Recipes, is now available. Anyone who wants a cookbook can contact her at 912-614-0890.** The Downtown Sandwich Shoppe sponsored a book-signing event for her in November.





All of her sons excelled in high school sports at Waycross High School. Four of her sons received scholarships to play football. Steve, now a loan officer at Prime South Bank in Jesup, played for the University of Florida. Stan, who owned a construction company in Jacksonville, played at Georgia Southern University. Scott, now a supervisor at CSX Railroad in Waycross, played at the University of West Georgia. Stuart, a teacher and coach in the Pierce County School System, played at the University of Central Florida. Shannon attended Okefenokee Technical School, where he earned a Surgical Technology degree. He is now employed as a technician in Open Heart Surgery at Baptist Hospital in JAX.



Stan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in January of 2016. The family was devastated and got a close-up view of how this disease takes a terrible toll on the patient, his family, and all those around him. Stan passed away in September of 2020. In memory of Stan, the family participates each November in the Alzheimer's Walk in Jacksonville.



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One of our granddaughters, Jenna, plays basketball for Pierce County High School. They recently played Wayne County in Jesup. Dr. Kevin Brooks replaced my wife's right knee. Kevin did a great job. He graduated from Ware County a few years ago. My wife is still in healing. She would have had trouble getting to the seats at the gym. I asked WCHS principal Reggie Burgess if we could enter on the ground floor. Doing this would eliminate her having to walk and climb too far. He agreed. Miguel and Anthony met us at the gym's side entrance. They got us chairs and placed them right behind the Yellow Jackets bench. Perfect. We could see all of the action. I just wanted to let you all know how they went the extra mile for us. That is much appreciated. Our girls won in a barn burner, and the boys lost. We salute the Wayne County HS staff for assisting us; you should be proud to have them.



Leadership Waycross Class 2024

First row: Maggie Tyre, Jake Hickox, Hannah Bennett, Ashley Young, Harlen Valentine, Lauren McCullough, Kasey Strickland, and Dale Neely. **Second row:** Bill Epps, Hunter Barber, Mike Thrift, and Daniel Smith.

Photo by AHA Photography



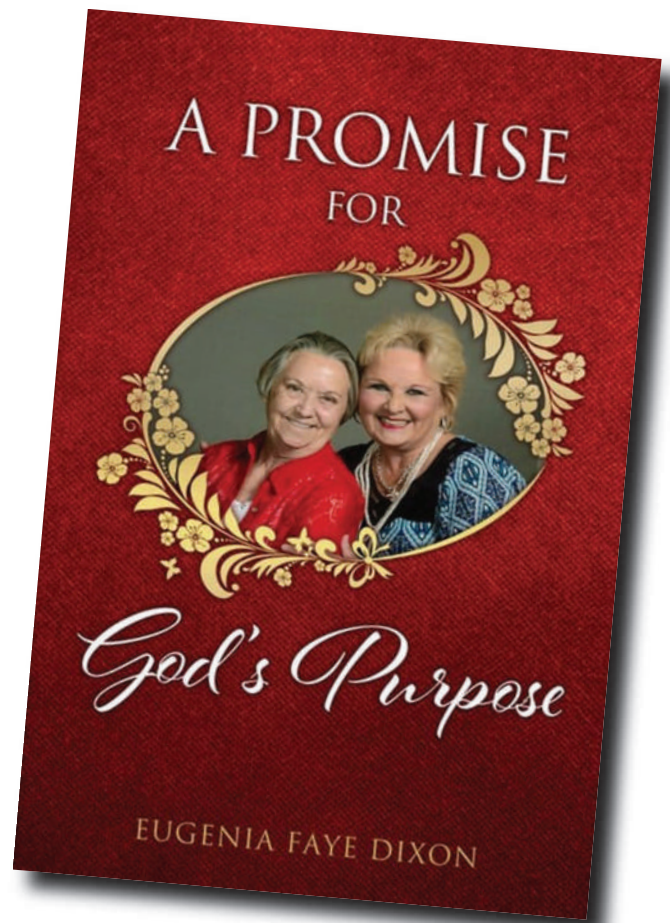
Eugenia Faye Dixon is a local author from Waycross Georgia. She is a member of Kettle Creek Church and serves as a Deacon to the single women in the congregation. She has been a Bible Study teacher and minister of the Word of God for many years as she passionately teaches others how to break the curse of bondage and live a life of freedom and overwhelming joy.

Eugenia shares there is a difference between knowing information about God and knowing God through a relationship with Him. Growing up in church, she learned a lot of information about God, but truthfully, did not understand how to have a relationship with Him. She grew up singing the songs, memorizing scripture verses, and hearing the minister preach about the love of God. And at the end of each service, knelt at the altar for salvation. We learn that God loves us, and He sent His Son, Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and on the third day, Christ victoriously arose from the grave and is now seated at the right hand of the Father, to make intercession for us, but too often we have not experienced the power of God transforming our lives.

Eugenia states, "My life resembled riding a roller-coaster spiritually. I have always loved riding roller coasters. The thrill and the anticipation of the roller coaster slowly climbing the first hill. Your heart is pounding in your chest as you reach the top and you are finally able to see the first drop in front of you. The screams begin at the first plummet to the bottom of the hill as it gains speed to continue to take you through the surprise twists and turns of the ride. At the end, everyone is cheering and laughing as we exit the ride and run around to stand in line again to gain the feeling of exhilaration one more time."

On the spiritual roller coaster, it was not the same. Eugenia continues, "I struggled with the unknowns in life. The mountaintop experiences and then back into the valley of sorrow and depression. If life was great, I believed God loved me and was blessing me. But if life was difficult, and filled with struggles, I believed I had failed to please God. I believed God was watching me from Heaven waiting for me to make a mistake or a bad decision so He could punish me."

A PROMISE





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Believing these lies prevents us from having an intimate relationship with God as well as people. Instead, it creates feelings of distance caused by insecurity, rejection, and abandonment. It is impossible to have an intimate relationship with someone when you are always anticipating negative results.

I John 4:18 tells us, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment. (My emphasis)

Eugenia explains, "My life was a mess, yet God continued to pursue me with an invitation for a deeper, richer relationship with Him. The invitation required a response from me to leave everything and follow Him."

This will not be a one-time event, but the beginning of a lifetime journey towards experiencing God's promises for healing and restoration.

Even when Christ came to rescue me, it was difficult to trust God as He pulled off the bandages that had become a protective covering over the infections of my life. Much like a child who has fallen and painfully assesses the scraped-up knee with blood running down the leg. Getting up from the ground, and limping into the house while crying desperately for someone to make it all better. The child cautiously covers the wounded knee with its little hands and screams, "No, don't touch it!" Still resisted the assistance to clean up the blood and dirty scrapes before putting on the medicine and bandage.

When God responds to our desperate cries for help, it is a natural reaction to say, "No, don't touch it! It is too painful!" But God is patient as He reveals His love and faithfulness to us, calmly speaking peace to our situations as He tenderly says, "I can fix this! There is nothing too difficult for me! Trust me!"

God spoke to my heart to write my first book at sixty-one years old. My first excuse was, "God, I am not a writer!" We cannot imagine what we will become until we offer our gifts and talents into His hands. Without God, I am not a writer. But with God, I can do all things. Nothing is too difficult for Him. I wrote and published my first book, "A Promise for God's Purpose" within four months. With God, I accomplished what I considered impossible.

Today at sixty-three years old, Eugenia is completing her second book for publication, "Fellowship with the Father, A Personal Prayer Journal and her experiences in Search for God."

This book is divided into three sections. Part I, Life Begins at Forty, Part II, Fabulous Fifty, and Part III, Look Who's Sixty. Within each part is a scripture with a personal prayer and a declaration to God of what the reader can choose to believe for life. Then each section is filled with personal experiences in my search for a relationship with God.

The more I obey God, the more doors of opportunity He opens so that I might share my testimony of God delivering me from bondage and healing me from brokenness to restoring my life with joy that spills out to others.

For more information about Eugenia Faye Dixon's books or speaking ministry, you may contact her by:

Email - efdixon.author@gmail.com

Facebook – Eugenia F. Dixon – Author

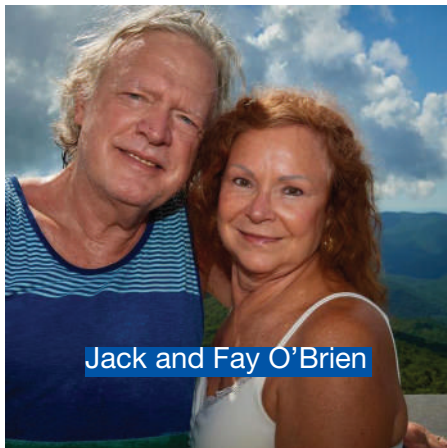
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Keep Calm And Let Us Focus

Jack O'Brien Photography





Jack and Fay O'Brien

Jack O'Brien has been creating photographs for over 55 years. He studied under Master Photographers Virgil Dean and Vernon Nalley of Jacksonville, Florida as well as completing studies with the New York Institute of Photography. Jack has won awards in juried art competitions and has been regularly published in various newspapers and magazines.

Jack can be reached at 912-281-2021

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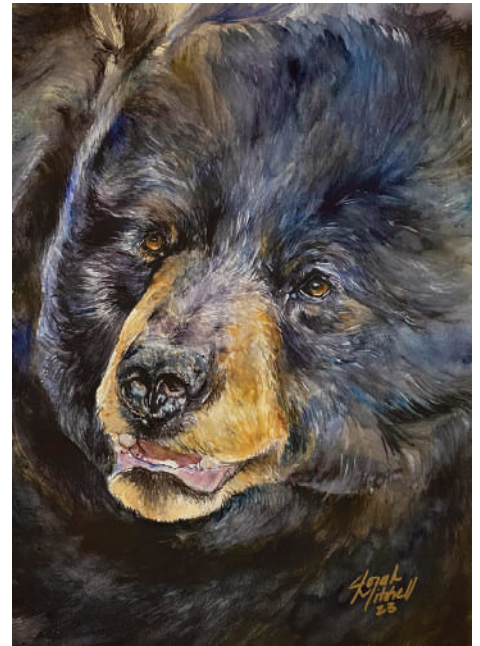
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Pierce County High School



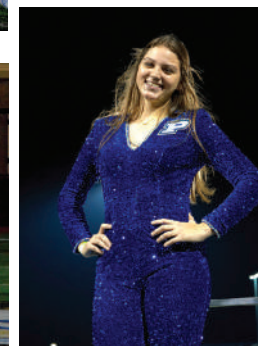
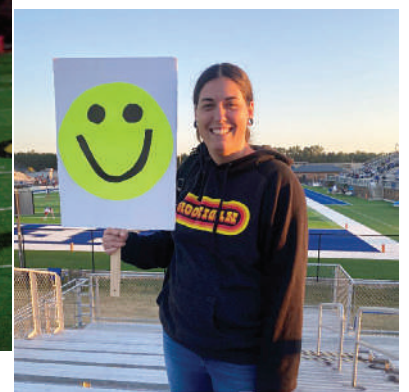
Bear art by Jorah Blaise Mitchell



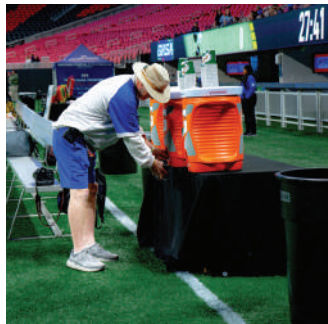
Go
Bears!



Photos by Heather



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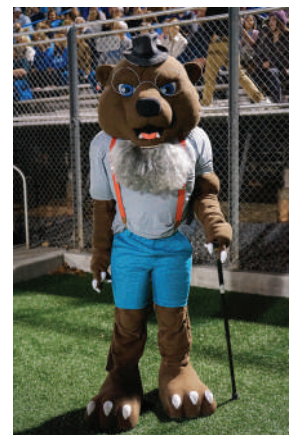
Pierce County High School



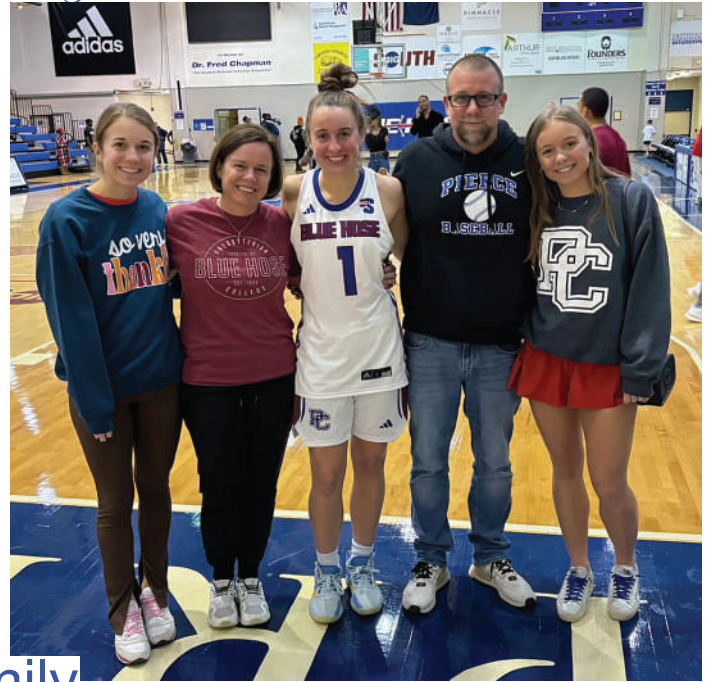
Pierce County High School



Go Bears!



Pierce County High School



Family



Jackson and Jones have been buddies since they were very young. A great friendship.



Pierce County High School



Bear Wrestling

Standing: Bruce Davis, Forrest Whitley, Raiden Crews, Jagger Young, Jackson Courson, Cooper Davis, David Lyons Jr, Briar Sweat, Danny Thigpen
Kneeling: Ashton Castaneda, Shaun Szabo, Andrew Watkins, Hayden Durrance
Front: Landon Hamilton and Gage Mercer



Rachel Johnson, Ava Lagerveld, Chyenney Geary, and Zakiah Davis

Pierce County High School





V O L L E Y B A L L

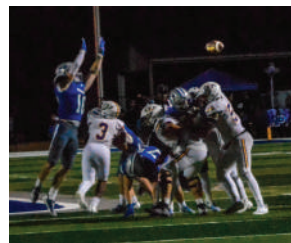


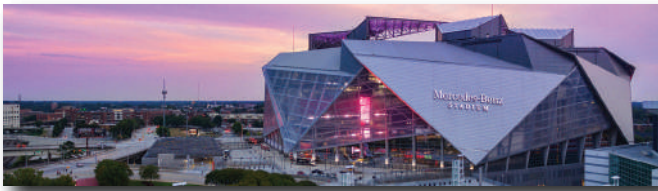
Congratulations to PCHS Sophomore Chloe Lynn, Ga State BETA Champion in 10th grade Science! Chloe also was state champion last year as a freshman! Chloe has had Mrs. Virginia Tison and Mrs. Jamie Akin as her science teachers at PCHS. Mrs. Tison and Mrs. Emily Crosby are Chloe's BETA sponsors. Congratulations to all, and Go Bears!!





go bears!





11x14 prints available from the Pierce County Foundation for Excellence in Education. Contact Joy Williams (joy-broome@gmail.com) for more information. Art by Mack Williams



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Christ for All Nations and One Hope: A Catalyst of Revival in the Philippines.

by Jennifer Palmer

Back in June, I attended a Fire Camp hosted by Christ for All Nations. This life-changing experience led to many exciting opportunities to preach the gospel at Youth Crusades all over the world. CfaN leadership directed me to reach out to Evangelist Roman Nechay who at the time was preaching in Cambodia. During our conversation, he told me he had a team ready to go in the Philippines. I was so excited to use what I learned in Fire Camp that I immediately hopped on board and a few weeks later I was in the heart of Manila preaching the gospel!

Our first night at dinner in the Philippines with One-Hope.



The children's faces lit up when they received their books.



From Left to Right: Ephraim A. Congayo, Nick Flores Wenceslao, Allan Lisama, Billy Jenkins, Jennifer Palmer, Roman Nechay, and Wenjay Sanchez.

When we arrived in the Philippines, our CfaN team of Evangelists partnered with OneHope and the Philippine Bible Society to equip every child with the word of God. Each new believer was given a book appropriate for their age to help teach them how to follow Jesus. The children's faces lit up when they received Jesus, and then again when they received their books!



The children are so thankful!

Lives were forever changed and transformed as people encountered Jesus. We had several people come forward to testify to what the Lord did during the ministry time. The testimonies that stood out most to me came from teenagers. Many teenagers came forward to tell us how the Lord touched them.

One young man in 10th grade was overwhelmed with tears as he testified that he previously struggled with self-harm. He revealed that he used to cut himself but, after he heard the gospel and surrendered his life to Jesus, he was relieved, completely set free, and then filled with the Holy Spirit. One young lady de-



The teachers are also thankful for Jesus and the word of God.

scribed feeling an electrifying sensation in her hands and feeling the Holy Spirit within her. Another young lady heard the gospel and was convicted that she was not truly trusting in Jesus with her troubles and sorrows. After placing her trust in Jesus Christ, she was filled with the Holy Spirit. She testified that she felt reassured of God's love for her and His presence within her.

Before our message, I was speaking to a young man who initially believed that he was saved. I asked him if he loved Jesus and he said to me, "I am born again!" As we were talking, it became very clear to both of us that there was no evidence of a changed life. He neglected his Bible, he did not attend church, and he was not spending time with Jesus. He had a reputation of being a bully in school which caused him to label himself as "bad". I reminded him that no matter how lost he felt, Jesus died for his sins and offered him forgiveness. After our ministry, he testified, "I feel like I am saved by God". He said that going forward he fully understands that we are to pursue Jesus daily by reading the word of God and praying. He now knows that we need to gather with other believers and fellowship at a local church. These things help us honor God and help us grow in Christ.

I realized in the Philippines that many people know about God and even know the Christian language but, they have not understood the truth about repentance. We saw tens of thousands of people truly turn from sin and their way to surrender and follow Jesus. We not only saw the youth come to Jesus but, many adults heard the gospel and surrendered their hearts too. Together we conducted 167 outreaches and preached the gospel to 87,742 people. 61,378 decisions were made to make Jesus the Lord of their lives.



Kasiglahan Village, Rodriguez, Rizal Philippines.



Our translator Wenjay Sanchez is the best in the Philippines!

Perhaps the most memorable experience for me was coming across five young homeless boys who were sleeping on the front steps of a KFC. They had no parents, no beds, and they were using their shirts as blankets. I could feel God's heart was just broken over these children. This was one of those times when we knew that one meal was just not enough. Only Jesus would be enough. We stopped and woke them up to give them food. We shared the gospel with them and then we prayed over each one of them. In all honesty, I was crying as our translator Nick was sharing the gospel with the children. I was deeply impacted but, we are not without hope. In faith, I believe that God is writing a new story for these children. Even though I may not see what God is doing or how he is going to provide for them, I believe He is going to make a way for those 5 children to have abundant life in Him.

This was such an amazing life-changing experience. I am so thankful to Roman Nechay and Billy Jenkins for allowing me to serve and learn from them. Thank you to Ephriam Congayo from OneHope who provided the books for us to share with the children. I am also so grateful for the new friendships built through teamwork with Michelle Nisperos, Wenjay Sanchez, Nick Flores Wenceslao, and Allan Lisama. Each person on the team was so needed. Wenjay and Nick were our translators. These are mighty men of God who are taking what they learned to the streets and are now winning the lost on weekly outreaches. Our team would not have gotten anywhere without our driver, Allan Lisama. I am thankful for how the Lord used each person. Praise be to God for all that He has done in Manilla. Also, Harvest Helpers cannot do this without you! We need your prayers, partnership, and financial support. All of your efforts to help us go directly towards bringing thousands of souls to the feet of Jesus. If you would like to partner with us in the upcoming season, please visit our website at <https://www.harvesthelpersinc.com/>. We look forward to winning thousands of souls together, In Jesus Name!



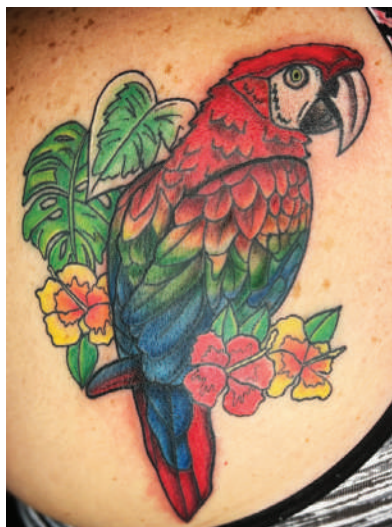
From Left to Right: Roman Nechay, Jennifer Palmer, Billy Jenkins, & Wenjay Sanchez.



Rizal Youth Crusade with over 8,000 youth saying "Yes" to Jesus.



Jennifer Palmer is the founder of Harvest Helpers Inc., a gospel-centered evangelistic organization that not only shares the gospel but also teaches others to lead people to Jesus. Jennifer is an Ordained Minister through Ascend Academy - a two-year School of Ministry located in Conyers, GA. She is currently completing her third-year internship under the leadership of Brian Guerin. Jennifer is certified by Christ for All Nations to preach in youth crusades and is a member of CfaN's Evangelism Alliance and the Global Evangelist Alliance. Through these Alliance organizations, she can collaborate with mass crusade evangelists from all over the world to share the Gospel on a global scale. Jennifer was born and raised in Waycross, GA. and she graduated from Ware County High School. She followed in the footsteps of her father and grandfather & began a career at CSX Transportation in 2011. Jennifer currently resides in Jacksonville.



LeAnn Sauls Her Art.

LeAnn Sauls is a tattoo artist, window painter, and graphic artist from Blackshear, GA. She would like to think that she is a well-rounded artist, as she dabbles in many mediums, but there is always room to learn and grow!

LeAnn started her journey in tattooing in the year of 2015, under the tutelage of Robin Minshew and Sambo Peeples at Project Mayhem Tattoo in Waycross, GA., and she is currently in the final stages of opening her own tattoo studio/art gallery in Blackshear called Silver Lining Tattoo Gallery! This art form is very special to her and many others, and she is excited to see what the future holds! She wouldn't be here without her clients, friends, family, and community, so she is forever thankful for that! She cannot wait to see faces, familiar and new, in her chair!

In Fall 2020, she started window painting under LeAnn Sauls Art. She remembers seeing this kind of artwork during the holidays, especially Christmas when she was growing up, and she felt like the craft was dying out. She felt a call to try it out and asked her former boss if he would let her do a test run on his windows at work. He told her to go for it, and she did! It turned out beautifully, and it soon became her most sought-after service. She is forever grateful for the faith he put in her. Since then, the craft has grown dramatically in our community, and she is excited to see other local artists joining in! She is thankful that our community has supported her in what she loves and for helping provide her family with a livelihood.

LeAnn hopes to inspire other people to create, show the kids in our community that you CAN succeed as a local artist, and never give up on your dreams. Never stop drawing, painting, crafting, or whatever brings you joy! If you put your heart into it, practice, and persevere — you WILL find a way. Keep drawing!



LeAnn Sauls Art • 912-614-9014 • leannsauls@gmail.com
@leann.sauls.art on instagram • LeAnn Sauls Art on Facebook

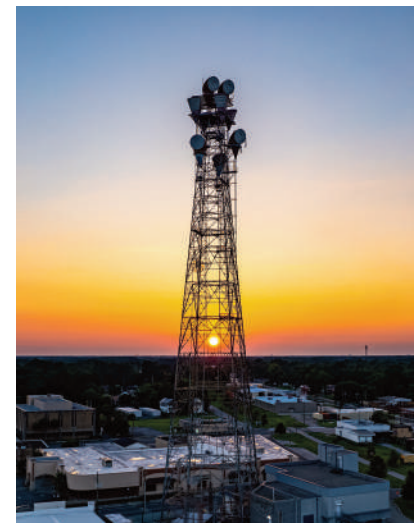
Raptor Vision Drones • George Vining







George Vining lives in Waycross with his travel-enthusiastic wife Rena, owner of Latitude Travel Planning, their witty and hilarious son Samuel, three beloved dogs, and a pretentious cat that allows them all to live in her palace. George can be contacted at RaptorVisionDronesorge@raptorvisiondrones.com. Phone 912-286-7074.



Belinda Jo Adams was born in Georgia. She grew up and married her husband in Fernandina, Florida. They have two daughters, two sons in law, five grandchildren and an 'adopted' son.

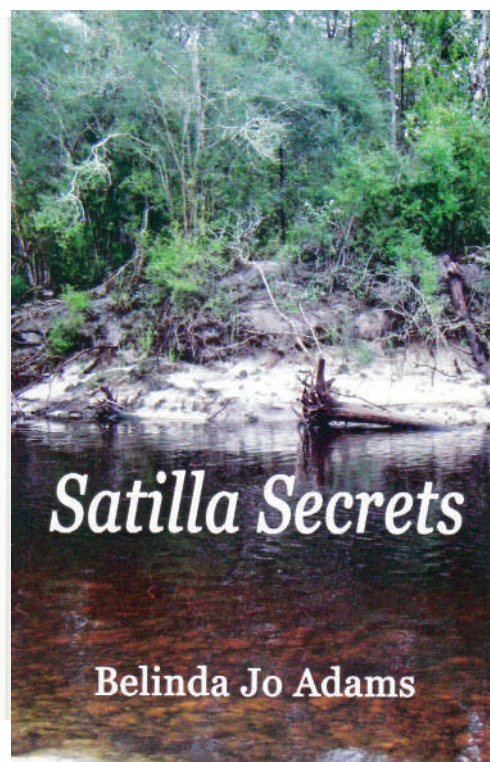
Steve and Belinda traveled to various locations as he was transferred with his job. At each location, Belinda read about and researched the area. Then, she chose a history event, made up characters and came up with a historical fiction story showing the way of life in that time period.

Belinda was also a sign language teacher and interpreter for many years. Her love for sign language prompts her to include a special feature in each book. Though usually not a main character, somewhere in each novel will be a deaf person. Each time, she shows the history and culture of deafness at that time period.

The Treasure of Blackshear, Georgia



by Belinda Jo Adams



Satilla Secrets : Many secrets were kept during the years as our ancestors settled this land. Sailla Secrets tells of one kept by the Smith family as they settled in the southeast area of Georgia. Read how they survive in the untamed land of outlaws and Indian attacks and help bring into a reality a longed-for town.

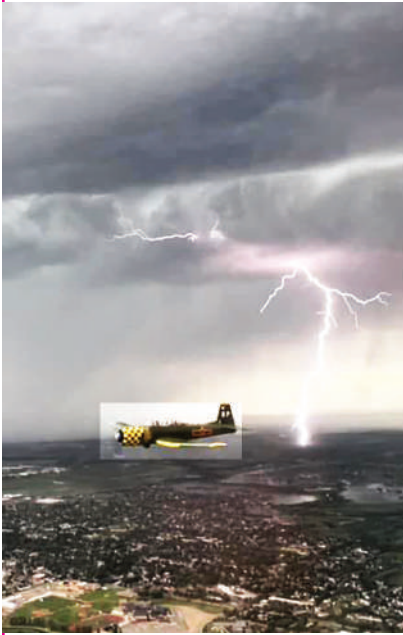
Belinda also had been researching her family tree which has deep roots here in SE Georgia. She added her family members living at this time period into her book as 'cameo appearances'. After the story, she explains who each one is. Included in the back of the book is a timeline of that time period of Pierce County history.

The Treasure of Blackshear, Georgia is about grandchildren who visit their grandparents in the town. While they are there they try to answer the question their grandfather has asked them and discover the exciting treasure the town has to offer. Each book is intended for children or as a souvenir book of Blackshear, Ga.



Belinda also writes various other items, such as articles, devotions and poems. She likes playing with photography, using her photos for the book covers. You can see her videos on Youtube. Just search for Belinda Jo Adams! PS She also started a new page on Facebook recently called Inspirational Photos. She uses pics she took and put Bible verses, quotes of her writings on them. And hope to inspire someone's moment. <https://www.facebook.com/belinda-joadams> Belinda Jo Adams, <http://belindajo.com/>

You can read about her books at the above link. It is her page that leads to her book page or their family site. Her facebook link is <https://www.facebook.com/Belinda-Jo-Adams-253393764672352>



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