



Merciful Ministries inc.

Serving women of all ages with Biblical counseling, discipleship, and comfort.

DECEMBER 2015

My Christmas Tribute!

Greetings from South Carolina. Christmas is nearly upon us. With sadness I must share with you that my sweet little, healthy, mother has gone to be with the Lord on November 18, 2015! Apparently struggling with shortness of breath for 2 weeks before, hospitalized promptly, then within 3 days, she was diagnosed with AML (Acute Myelocytic Leukemia). She was supposed to come to Rock Hill that week to visit me. I was so looking forward to showing her what I do, and enjoying my little house together. The day she was to fly to Charlotte, I flew to Dallas, Texas to her hospital



Dorothy Marie Swayne, 85

room. In 2 days, after a family meeting with all 6 siblings, grandchildren and Oncologist, Mom decided to go home rather than endure the terrible chemo treatments that might have given her 2 more years. Instead, she chose to en-



joy her family in her last days, for possibly 14-30 days. Once we got her home, hospice care taught us how to make her comfortable. After only 5 days, she breathed her last in my arms, with all the family there, praying her into heaven.

For Those Five Days each family member and church family pitched in to allow everyone time to say good bye in their own way. We comforted Mom and each other in songs, hymns, games, prayers, and Scripture reading. Though tears of sadness were frequent, laughter and joy were present as well. Her house was the loudest & busiest I had seen it since childhood! All of this was only joy to Mom's ears. We were also blessed by meals every day for our huge family. God's mercy Full!

Blessing: One memory I will always treasure was while Mom was still in hospital one night, she acknowledged that I'm carrying her and Daddy's baton in full time ministry into the next generation and that she was proud of me. Her positive words to me were rare. I adored my mother and was so encouraged and thankful to the Lord for the blessing she bestowed on me; for her deep love for the Lord and her faithfulness in prayer were her legacy to me. I pray I can pass this baton on to the women I counsel, to become women of the Word, as well as powerful prayer warriors!

Financial Appeal: Thank you for your prayers, support, gifts and cards for the ministry and in my loss. Please know - **God has been faithful to sustain MMI** this year with your faithfulness. Bless you! We've seen so many woman finding healing at many levels! Its still exciting to walk regularly with women where others just wouldn't have time or patience!

Financial Need: MMI's financial shortfall is \$2000.00/month. I recognize that funds are tight everywhere, but unfortunately this level of counseling is mostly unattainable for the woman in dire straights. **Can you prayerfully consider...**

a gift of the price of a cup of coffee every morning or once a week? or \$10.00-\$40.00/wk or more?

(If 100 people shared at this level, the dire situation that MMI is in this month would be solved with **\$12,000 - \$48,000.00** a year!) How many ministries live on so little?! I challenge 100 people to be ambassadors with me, to ask God if \$10.00 - \$40.00 a month would be a gift He would have you give regularly, **to vicariously counsel through me?**

Year-end gifts are greatly valued however **regular giving is best for ongoing needs.**

Please remember all gifts and donations are tax deductible & need to be dated by December 31, 2015.

*Christmas Regards,
Lizabeth Swayne*

Highlights:

- Christmas Tribute
- Counselor Testimonies
- **Financial Appeal /Need**
- Testimonies cont. p.2
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Counselor Testimonies:

One lady writes:

For more than 14 months, Lizabeth was instrumental in helping me back onto the right path from where I had strayed. I love how she makes me feel comfortable about sharing anything, yet it's not to pass judgment, but to get it out in the open and deal with it. I am amazed at her sensitivity to the Spirit and how she can say just the right thing in order to help me understand God's perspective on things. She asks the hard questions in a gentle →

Rare moments of testimonial disclosure:

(cont from front) non-threatening manner. She's not afraid to tell it like it is. I am incredibly thankful the Lord brought me to her because He has used her in a mighty way to help break my bondage and bring me back into His light. I have been set free, and Lizabeth was a huge part of that. I so wish many others could experience what I've had with her as my counselor. She's amazing.

A writes: MMI has helped me see God for who he really is—good, perfect, loving, and holy. Over the past 20 months God has used this ministry to bring healing in places I never brought to light before.

R wrote: *Lizabeth (Merciful Ministries) has helped me to seek answers from God. For several years I have suffered with crippling anxiety and depression. Lizabeth has patiently but consistently pointed me to trust God and seek Him. She has also reminded me of the gospel and God's love demonstrated at the Cross and having that as my sole comfort and foundation in life's joys and trials. She is truly my friend and is always open and available to talk and pray.*

Thank you: for honoring me by sharing in my struggles. I am confident daily to know and see that God has continued to use MMI throughout this year in so many more and exciting ways that I will share at a later date! Enjoy your Christmas Season!

For tax deductible gifts & support, please make checks payable to:
"Merciful Ministries" c/o Hamilton Financial
3710 University Dr., Suite 330, Durham, NC 27707 (919-328-0003)

Personal update since the spring: 2015

Jan-Now: counseled 15-18 women per week

New counselees almost every week!

Jan-June: 2nd half of Sexual Sanity for Women class
(7 women came for 24 weeks)

Sept-now: 3rd SSFW class - "I'm not my Brokenness"

Prep, prayer & studying thru sum., (11 women this year!)

Oct: Christian Counseling /Education Foundation (CCEF)

Conference on "Side by Side" Va. Beach, VA

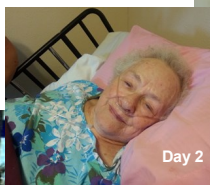
Oct: Kansas City for niece's wedding, Mom not ill

Nov: Back To TX ... Mom's illness & death, Nov. 18, 2015

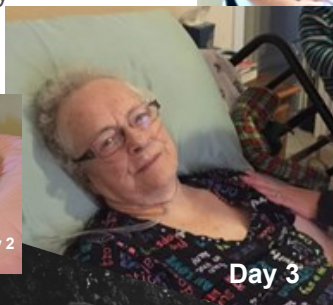
Dec: "I'm not my Brokenness" Christmas party



Mom & her 6 kids at Ashleigh's wedding



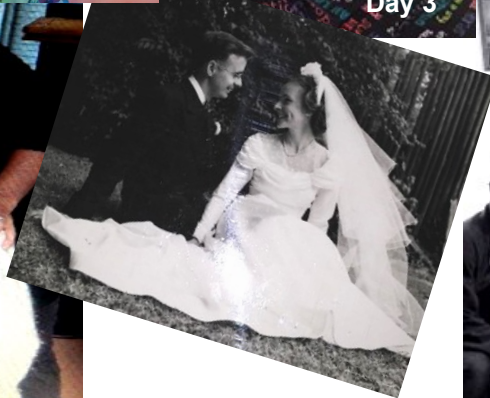
Day 2



Day 3



Oct 2014 CA



A lot of us! Day 3

Contact Us

Give us a call or email for more information about our services.

Mailing Address: Merciful Ministries, Inc. PO Box 36743
Rock Hill, SC 29732 484-686-6108 lbswayne@gmail.com

Financial Mailing Address: Merciful Ministries c/o Hamilton Financial
3710 University Dr., Suite 330 Durham, NC 27707
919-489-1011

Rock Hill Counseling Office
Renew Our Community 119 E. White St. Rock Hill, SC 29730
(803) 328-0003

Visit us on the web at
www.mercifulministriesinc.com
YouTube: merciful ministries



Please pray for us to grieve well for Mom.