



God's Not Dead! *He is Alive at ASM!*

“God’s Not Dead” – This is a song title from the Newsboys, a Christian music group, and also the title of two recent movies. This title describes what is going on at ASM and our newest female programmer at Along Side Ministries, Misty George.

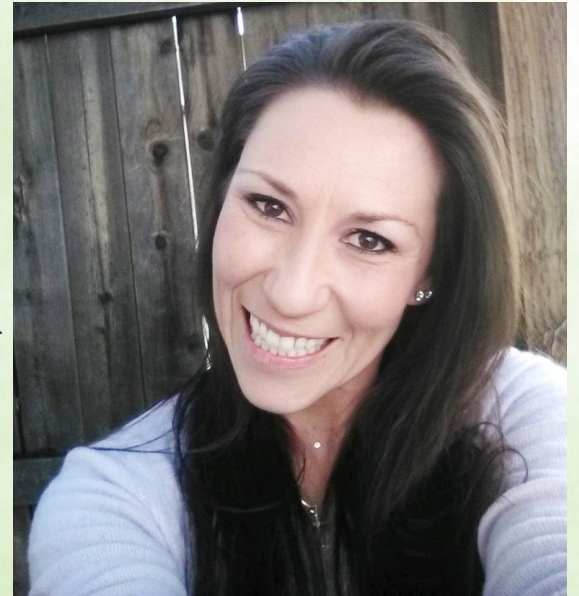
Misty’s journey began in a very loving family in Louisiana. She was raised by a single mom who instilled in her a good perspective on morals and how to live life, albeit that perspective didn’t include God. She moved to Tucson, Arizona when she was five and had a good childhood there.

At 15, Misty began a slow descent into the dark world of drugs and sexuality. She began to use pot which led to alcohol abuse which took her to pills and then on to heroin and meth over a 15 year period. All that substance abuse finally crashed her life, and she was arrested at the age of thirty.

Drugs were the reason for her arrest, but it was Misty’s viewpoint on men that had a significant impact on her outlook on life. Misty admits she saw men as targets and objects to get what she wanted. At 18, she sold herself the first time to obtain money for her drug of choice. Men found Misty very attractive, and were willing partners in this dark world of using one another.

Misty soon developed an appetite for “*sugar daddies*” in her life. Her first sugar daddy came when she was 19 and was arrested for a DUI. Her defense attorney promised to get her charges removed, if he could be her sugar daddy. She didn’t care that he was married, only that he would provide the resources for her drug use. This began years of letting men use her so she could get the means for her drug lifestyle.

Misty found her way into the club scene and became a dancer as she continued to chase a lifestyle of drugs and depravity. She eventually worked the hotels, seeing men one after the other, plunging into a deeper and darker hole without God. Her eventual crime was going after a regular customer for payment that he had refused to give her. She borrowed a gun from a friend to scare this man into paying what she was owed. She and this friend went to this customer’s home and at gun point robbed him of \$500.00. However, Misty’s friend left his phone behind, which led to their seizure and arrest. She was sentenced to six years.



...plunging into a deeper and darker hole without God.

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It was in jail and in isolation with no privileges that she began the journey to discovering that God is alive and loves her. With only a towel and a Bible in her cell, she began to read the powerful words in 1 John 4:19, “We love Him, because He first loved us”. She read about the cross and what Jesus said about forgiving them for they know not what they do. She thought, “Who says this kind of thing? Who loves like this?” Misty’s heart was beginning to soften toward God in those solitary moments in her cell.

She still had one last resistance to God’s tugging at her heart. She wanted proof that He was real and not just words in a book. She screamed, “Prove Yourself by getting me get out of isolation for just 45 minutes!” Misty thought she was asking the impossible. Two minutes later an officer came and asked her if she wanted to go outside. She couldn’t believe it! *Was God real?* On the way to seeing daylight for the first time in days, a distraction happened, and the officer rescinded the offer to go outside. She was heading back to her cell and isolation. Mad at God, her sceptic heart kicked in, only to have the officer change his mind again and lead her to a courtyard where she spent an hour outside on her face saying, ***“I believe God is alive and real and He loves me!”***

In that moment, all her guilt and shame were replaced by God’s amazing grace and love. She confessed her old ways and wanted to learn more about this God who loves like that. Misty was so hungry for understanding God’s ways that she read everything she could get her hands on. She read the Scriptures by the hours, learning what God wanted for her.

Misty discovered Along Side Ministries, (ASM) inside the prison, attended a church service, and fell in love with ASM. She immediately knew she wanted to be part of this ministry. As a result of ASM, she began to understand God’s Word better. She experienced worship with other believers for the first time. Transformation was taking place in her heart; her old ways of thinking and behaving were being melted away and replaced with a heart for Jesus. She became a leader on her yard and eventually a teacher for inmate-led Bible studies. Misty began to help new believers understand what she had learned about God. She was committed to doing whatever it took to be more like Jesus.

If you could meet Misty and spend five minutes with her, after those five minutes you would be so encouraged by her dynamic love for God you would be inspired by what God is doing! She is still unfinished in her journey, like all of us, but she is God’s child and He is going to use her in His way, in His timing and His direction. Here at ASM, we are glad that we are in this with her and have the privilege to see God at work.



Misty with her sister and mom

***God’s Not Dead He
is Alive in Misty and at
Along Side Ministries!***



Misty with her mentor, Anne

What is Happening at ASM Lately???



Along Side Ministries, Celebrates Graduate...Brenda Fry

Most recently we had a Graduation for Brenda Fry. She was our lone graduate this March and we tried something new and had the ceremony outside at the German House (formally called the "Big House") on the lawn. We followed the graduation with a combination of grilled burgers and hotdogs feast and potluck provided by all our programmers. Everyone loved the venue, it had a great family feel to it. We continued to celebrate with one another in the front yard of the women's DTC.

It was a special day for Brenda and she plans on living in graduate housing with us. Thanks to John and June Taylor for bringing a special message and challenge to Brenda as she continues to grow in her walk with Jesus.

ASM has hired a new Men's Director for Prison Ministry

David Baldwin, has been serving the Lord in various roles over the past ten years. He has served as the Program Director in another ministry here in the valley. David completed a chaplaincy program in a local ministry and then became an instructor for that program as well. He has served in outreach ministries in the valley, including street evangelism and bus ministries with his church. Most recently, David has been leading services in the 4th Avenue Jail as an ASM volunteer. He has been a jail volunteer for a little over five years now and has made significant impact in the jail ministry for the Kingdom Business.



David is married to his wife Megan, and they have two children, a boy and girl that they adore deeply. They look forward to bringing them up in the ways of the Lord. David's greatest desire is to be a man that lives his life for Jesus. His passion is to be the man that God designed him to be as a husband, a father and man that lives to serve God. Please pray for David, his family and his new ministry with ASM.



ASM has also hired a Chaplain

We have hired a Chaplain for the shepherding of our men and women when they come to live with us. We are thrilled to have Kit Abbott join us for this purpose. He is a gifted pastor and will bring wisdom and experience to the discipling of our people.

Kit Abbott was born in Flagstaff Arizona. He attended the University of Arizona where he played football for the Wildcats and graduated with a degree in education. After graduating from Phoenix Seminary with a Masters of Divinity, Kit was employed in full time ministry as youth pastor, church planter, senior pastor, and family pastor for 27 years. Kit has been married for 27 years and has three children.

Some bittersweet news...

Is about Larry Peterson, a longtime volunteer with ASM. Larry was taken home to be with the Lord on Sunday March 17th 2019. Larry was a remarkable man who had



put his mark of excellence all through our properties. If there was something to be fixed, which was a constant around our older properties, or if something needed built, Larry was our go to man. He was an excellent craftsman and carpenter, but a better friend to all at ASM.

He was a retired Fireman from Oak Lawn, Illinois. He retired as an assistant Chief and also served as a volunteer at the Hall of Flame Museum here in Phoenix. He will be missed here from all us who he had touched, but he is now in Glory with Jesus. That is what we rejoice in today as we remember Larry Peterson, a faithful servant of Jesus and His Kingdom work on this earth. *A memorial service will be held sometime in the beginning of May.*



We will miss our dear friend, Larry...

If you haven't heard... there is a movie that is being filmed this month here in the Phoenix area and that is based on the mentor model of Along Side Ministries. The Movie is called "**John Light**" and you can google www.johnlightmovie.com and discover more about what is going on with the movie. David Welty, a mentor with ASM in the beginning days of this ministry, is also a screen play writer. He wrote a script about mentoring an inmate based on their relationship with Jesus and the ministry of ASM. The movie tells the story about what mentoring an inmate looks like and the struggles that both the mentor and mentee face together both on the inside the prison walls as well as on the outside prison walls. Dean Cain, of "*Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*", plays a role of a parole officer in this film and brings some star presence to this story. We will follow up with the release details soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 13th, ***Beyond the Bars Orientation*** 8:30 am at the Men's DTC

April 26th, ***Family Gathering Night*** at First Christian Church at 6:30 pm

June 9th, ***ASM Graduation*** at First Christian Church at 5:00 pm

June 1st, ***Beyond the Bars Orientation*** 8:30 am at the Men's DTC

Call the ASM office for more details
602-995-9484