

Celebration of New Birth

“Since the day the Lord saved me, I have not turned back and have plowed ahead with great victory.”

I am celebrating seven-teen years of living fully for God! I received the Holy Ghost and was baptized in Jesus' name when I was twenty-three years old. I came to the Lord a fourth-generation teenage parent with then four children and in a horrible relationship. Since the day the Lord saved me, I have not turned back and have plowed ahead with great victory, even while facing some struggles.

I am very thankful for my salvation experience when I look at my daughters and son, now twenty-three, nineteen, seventeen, and fourteen years old. They are saved and living for God. The cycle of teenage pregnancy and dysfunctional relationships was broken when God saved me. I celebrate in knowing that from my children on, I have started the right cycle on a straight path!

During my journey I have experienced incredible miracles and the most fabulous relationship with my Savior. I wanted to share what I had

received since the day the Lord filled me with His Spirit. It was seventeen years ago; I was praying at home. I will never forget that night. I was a new Christian, and I was sold out to Jesus. Things around me had not quite changed but my spirit was completely different. I asked the Lord to save my family. As I started listing their names, the Lord spoke to me about my mom and brothers. I got up from prayer very excited because I knew they were also going to be saved and experience this awesome change of life.

One year later, things were the same. My mom wasn't saved, my brothers were not saved, and I was getting discouraged. As a matter of fact, my mom struggled with my new life, thinking it was unnecessary to have all the "rules" that I had. If you asked her, she would be the first to tell you that she had a relationship with God, and they communicated all the time.

Five years later, there was no change. I will admit at this point I believed for everyone else's family to be saved but it was hard to believe it would happen for mine.

Ten years later, there was still no change. My mom had moved to St. Louis and had come to visit our

church a few times. She shed tears and experienced great moves of God but still her life had not changed. However, I didn't give up because I still believed God would save her.

Sixteen years later, my mom had moved to Philadelphia, and things weren't going very well for her. Money was low, and there were situations beyond her control that were really weighing her down. We sent for her to visit with us for awhile, to relax and take it easy. During this visit, I planned to go to a conference out of town. I invited my mom but she was extremely reluctant to go with me. She was so down in spirit that nothing was exciting to her.

After a little pressure, she decided to go with me and my daughters. The second day there, while in a church service, Mom received the Holy Ghost—sixteen years after asking the Lord to save my family! My excitement of this long awaited promise shook the very core of my soul, so much that I literally trembled myself to the other side of the church. I wept and wept and wept. Words could not explain how dynamic that night was. When we came home, my mom was baptized in Jesus' name by my husband.

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Dawn Medina and husband, Earl, pastor Maplewood Apostolic Church in Maplewood, Missouri. She is a speaker for single and ladies' conferences. Dawn is dedicated to her husband, their four children, and the ministry wherein God has placed them.

Dawn Medina

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“During my journey I have experienced incredible miracles and the most fabulous relationship with my Savior.”

I truly dedicate this celebration of my saved life to my mom, Deborah Moltimore! She was the best mom she could be to me and my brothers. We didn't have the latest in fashion or the top brand of anything but her love for us drove her to work every day to provide food, shelter, and clothing for her family. All her struggles were not in vain.

Now that my mom is saved, she is planted firmly in a great church in

Philadelphia where she is truly loved. She is a tremendous encourager and loves her pastor, his wife, and her new church family.

I cannot explain how beautiful it is to share my saved life with my saved mom. When we talk, we are now both on the same page; she prays for us, we pray for her. It's amazing! My youngest brother has also received the Holy Ghost and is baptized in Jesus' name. We are all just waiting for my other brother to come on in to celebrate with us as we wait for the Lord's return. ❁