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Blindside

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What's *your* story?

When you think about your life story, can you envision the lives that can be changed if your story was known? Maybe you believe your story is not worth hearing or writing about because you feel that the chapters are too dark, too bland, or too embarrassing to share. Are there pages of your story you wish you could tear out, or lines you could erase because they make you cringe? For a long time I felt that way, sometimes I still do. But recently, the Lord has been showing me how I could use my story to help someone else. Now, despite the not-so-pretty chapters, my story can accomplish more than I could ever envision because God is the Author and Publisher.

Envision Magazine exists, not only because each person has a story that needs to be read, but because those stories have the ability to be used by God to build the faith of a reader. This year's Envision team, adopted Psalm 102:18 as our guiding text, "Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD (NIV)."

The team wrote, photographed, and designed stories that portray the amazing grace of God. The stories you are about to read are compelling because, even as they were being written, lives were impacted. Whether it is Esther telling how she prayed as she lay in the back seat of her car bleeding from a gunshot, or Elia recounting the moment doctors said they found a tumor, the power of God is shown. Envision lives out Psalm 102:18 by publishing stories so that this, and the next, generation of young people will praise the Lord.

Usually when we read something interesting, we want to share it with others. As you flip through, you will notice a new section, #follow up. #Follow Up is sponsored by the Center of Youth Evangelism and we created this segment of the magazine because we want you to think, share, and learn more about topics discussed in the issue. You will also find that there is a list of upcoming events around the conference specially tailored for youth that will be of interest to you. The varying topics under health, finance, education, and relationships are sure to provide you with useful advice that we hope you can apply in your life.

The production of this issue has been a faith building experience. Debbie Michel, our former Editor-In-Chief continued to offer guidance, for which I am extremely grateful. There were times when I felt the task was too big, but God's grace, her help, and an amazing team has made this issue a reality. Though we can be blindsided in life, God is never taken by surprise. As you read, it is my hope that your eye of faith will be brighter and you will see life through God's eye. May this issue remind you that you are the apple of His eye and that He watches over you continually.

With grace,



Felecia Datus



PHOTO JEAN-IREES MICHEL



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