

Waking Up the Nation,
One Reader at a Time...

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

Finding Freedom Behind the Bars

"We the jury find the defendant, Mary Elizabeth Forsythe, guilty on all counts." The words brought an end to Mary's life on the fast track of worldly success and sent her to prison, where she learned the difficult but glorious lessons of true transformation.

Growing up in rural western Kentucky, Mary dreamt of a life of glamour and success in a big city. With the natural-born instincts of an entrepreneur, Mary worked toward accumulating wealth first by selling homemade lemonade, and then by making her first stock market purchase at age 13. By the time she graduated college with a pharmacy degree and settled in Dallas, Texas, Mary was on her way to fulfilling her dream.

Soon, she owned her own drug store and applied to become a government-approved distributor of AZT for AIDS patients.

Following an audit by the Texas Department of Health and Human Resources, Mary's pharmacy fell under close scrutiny. As Mary realized the seriousness of the investigation, she figured she could simply write the government a check to cover the inventory discrepancy. Little did she know her life was about to be turned upside



down. After being found guilty by a jury, she was sentenced to five years at a women's prison in Texas. Her entire outlook began to change as her pride and self-confidence began to break and she sincerely requested God's help.

One day Mary was called to the visitation area where a stranger named Gary asked her, "Do you want to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?" She had never heard of that, but she remembered asking for God's help, so she answered, "Yes." Mary did not understand what happened next. As Gary gently touched her forehead, she fell to the ground in a loving and peaceful manifestation of the

Holy Spirit's presence.

After this amazing encounter, the Holy Spirit began to teach her how to live by the Word of God. Her first "class" was "forgiveness and blessing." He led her to forgive and bless the judge, the jury and all the people who prosecuted her. Mary acknowledges, "I prayed for them until the attitude of my heart matched the words of my mouth, until I genuinely felt forgiveness and compassion for them and truly wanted the Lord to bless their lives."

She endured intense humiliation and adversity behind bars, but her spirit grew strong as she witnessed women come to the Lord,

receive emotional and physical healings, and grow in Christ's likeness. She also found freedom in her heart and learned to develop an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit.

After serving five years in prison, she is now president of Kingdom Living Ministries and desires to advance God's Kingdom everywhere she goes.

by Joan Vetter

