

Girls of Joy

I would like to introduce you to a very special group of young ladies--friends of mine and in need of a proper introduction to all who would learn of their lives. I believe you will react strongly to what you are about to read. You may shout and get angry. You may shut down and go into denial. You might even weep for them. But I will tell you, what they would want is for you to see their courage and strength, to rise up in righteous anger, to step in and make a difference in their lives. As the subject matter is unpopular on social media, I will not be able to tell you the half of their real story. You will have to fill in the gaps, read between the lines, and let your imagination help you fill in the blanks. Another unfortunate reality is I will not be able to post their photos, both for security reasons and for censorship threats. My words will have to paint the picture for each of you as you read on.

The story really begins with pastor Joy, hence the "Girls of Joy." You thought this story was about joyful girls who find happiness and victory over dire circumstances. Not really, at least not yet. In reality, these girls are in a daily struggle just for survival. But enter one righteous woman who dares to make a difference. In the face of intense hostility and real danger, pastor Joy has stepped in and rescued these girls (around 30 at this point) from a life on the streets. She has led them all to faith in the Lord Jesus. She has provided relatively safe although tenuous living quarters for each of them. She continues to disciple them and encourage them to follow the Lord. These girls love her, and she loves each of them. It is a marvelous thing to behold.



Here is a blurred picture of some of the girls with a few women in the back who are protecting them in various places.

They are all orphans. None have any family but each other and mama Joy. I cannot talk about the circumstances that led to their total abandonment in society. It is not allowed by those that survey these articles. Here is a major blank to fill in! But in the end they all share the same wounds, the same crisis, the same plight in life. Most were 6-8 years old when they were "sold" into their slavery by their families. They became human cargo to be exploited and used until which time they would be discarded and eventually erased. But God had a different plan.

"For God so loved the world . . ." He sent a bold and courageous pastor to them to give them a hope and a Savior. Now they follow the Lord and obey Him. They were told, "if you give your lives to Jesus He will provide for you and take care of you." "Jesus loves you." This is most certainly true. But it will be even more true and german when the people of God rally to their cause. And don't think it will start and end with these 30 girls. They are only the beginning of what God will do. So what do they really need? How can strangers whom they will likely never meet in this life make a real difference in each of their lives? Let me tell you.

Here is the reality of their lives at present. Each is way under weight. They survive most days on a meager rice portion. Two days a week they get curds added to their rice to keep them alive. Up until now there has been only sporadic help for them. They have

only a few clothes. They cannot afford proper hygiene as they are in hiding and therefore are not allowed to work in polite society. Yet they are eager to work. We are currently attempting a business startup where they can make key chains and some jewelry (Indian style) to sell for income. Their ages range from 6 up to 28. Obviously, pastor Joy reaches out to any she can rescue. Their age matters not. And they wait. They wait for good things to happen in their lives. They get so excited by the slightest encouragement. They are so sweet and full of hope.

Here is pastor Joy's vision for their lives. As these girls cannot return to normal society (at least not yet), she wants to create a home base (a sequestered place) where they can live in peace and safety. This home will not only provide a somewhat permanent place for each of them, but it will also be a place where they can learn to become true and faithful disciples of the Lord in relative peace and safety. Many of the girls already want to be trained as evangelists in their own right. They have a God given desire to reach out to others with the grace of God in the same way they were reached. There will be older women who live with the girls. As mentioned, small business ideas will be encouraged. Pastor Joy hopes several to many small businesses will thrive and begin to earn money for their welfare. It is expected the base will require around \$2,000 USD to fund each month. This will go toward rent, food, clothing, and general necessities of life. As I see it, this is the starting point of the ministry. If it grows, many more girls could be rescued (there are many thousands just in nearby regions alone). The size and scope of the work is known only to God. I do not want to limit Him in any way.

So what I have presented to you is only a sketch outline of the real story. Perhaps one day you will get to hear more of the truth. But you have heard enough for now to catch the plight of these girls. And perhaps you have imagined in your mind how you might be able to help them yourself. Whether you would only wish to give a one time gift or whether you could commit to a monthly long term commitment, I implore you. Pray about giving to this just and noble cause. And above all commit to praying for all involved. Do not forget about the "Girls of Joy."

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

James 1:27