

## The Rescue—Encounter 2 of 3

by Christine Wentzel

This is the next installment on the theme of taking Church to the unchurched (*Go to Church* and *The Training*.) While working a craft event, I met two women in need of Church. One was already found and the other was still lost...



An attractive, well-dressed woman in her 60's approached my tent. She was tastefully accessorized with a floppy-brimmed summer hat, dark fashion sunglasses and long brunette hair that she habitually pulled in front of her face. She picked up a piece of Christian-themed jewelry to examine. I noticed that same ghost of physical pain over her features—a mirror image of the first woman. Then I saw a large black bruise on her arm. I realized God opened another door so stepped through to ask, "Are you okay?"

With her head still down she said that no, she wasn't. She suffered from back pain due to arthritis and a recent fall. De'ja' vu, only this was real. I quietly showed her my arthritis-ridden hands and hoped she'd believe without words that I might understand her troubles. I told her I'd like to know more, if she was willing to tell.

So she shared how she fights feelings of panic whenever leaving her house and going out in public. I learned that through a series of life-altering tragedies and this foreign war on her body, she was becoming a recluse gripped by paralyzing anxiety. The onslaught of chronic pain weakened her to the dark thoughts of ending it. She explained how the positive witness of a friend dealing with his own tragedies brought her perspective and a sense of hope.

This was a perfect opening to bring Church to her, but I confess it didn't flow as smoothly as the first time. We were touching on things I occasionally struggle with myself— anxiety, panic, and declarations to my Creator Lord that His timing is off; I want to go home now. Her amused expression showed understanding. However, the Holy Spirit made good on His promise to help by calming down my insecurities and giving me the words of my sure hope in Jesus to share. She gradually stopped the pulling of her hair, took the sunglasses off and finally the hat and accepted my offer of friendship. That's when I found out she bears my dear mother's name (wow).

I gave her the cross jewelry and asked her to keep it to remember this moment as a gift of love from her Savior. She thanked me and said she felt well enough to walk to the grocery store. Alleluia! I will call her. Pray she will come to know the sure Hope of her salvation.

The final part of this theme of taking Church to the lost is called "The Lesson." The Lord wasn't through with this mission.

*I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!* Job 19:25-27

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**Season:** Pentecost

**Video:** 18. Planting the Seeds

**Devotions:** 52. A True Witness

84. A Powerful Name, a Small Detail

164. Scariest than Halloween - the Last Judgment

166. Preach Like Paul

**Prayers:** 50. Again, Lord, I was blessed when I entered...

52. My God of perfect orderly design, during your time of incredible creativity...

**Super Girl:** 122. This morning I woke up with To God Be the Glory on an eternal...

**Scripture References:** Matthew 5:8; 1 Corinthians 13:12; 1 John 3:2; Psalm 17:15

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