

April 2021



# NEW DIRECTION Mustard Seed

PO Box 18745 Asheville NC 28814    PO Box 2234 Blowing Rock NC 28605    (828) 206-0495



*Dear Friends,*

Years ago when we lived on New Direction Farm with teenagers, one of the activities was archery. You didn't want to be anywhere on either side of the target when it was time for an arrow to be shot. Many of the kids had ADHD and would become easily distracted. Wherever their gaze traveled so, too, the arrow.

Same is true for us in daily life, not with shooting arrows but by this simple truth that is posted on our office wall:

**If you want to know where your heart is look  
to where your mind goes when it wanders.**

**What we think leads to what we  
feel leads to what we choose to do**

And another:

**We live out of what we believe**

It is of great honor to walk, extensively, with the single mothers who have become clients of the Mustard Seed Project. An important piece of our work is helping them to begin to examine what they believe. What they believe about God. About themselves. About their past, present and future. What they believe about work, relationships. It is an MRI, of sorts, placed over what has been planted in their hearts and minds. Some of those plants are like invasive kudzu which need to be extricated in order for the new and thriving to take root. The kudzu are lies which are like tethers. Although they are born again and have a living, thriving relationship with Jesus Christ they are not living out of "*it is for freedom that Christ has set you free....*" (Galatians 5:1).

There is a renewing of the mind that needs to occur in order to be free of that which still encumbers. This is a process of integrating the Word of God into one's soul as well as spending time with a safe believer. One who can help them begin to examine where the reality of their life is off center of the plumb line of truth thus inhibiting walking in the freedom of righteousness. It's a matter of consistently holding up the truth of Who God truly is; His design for mankind, and His rescue plan rather than the distorted image deeply ingrained into their belief system.

A month or so ago I was going through some old paperwork and came across a worksheet from one of the mothers. The heading was I Believe. The assignment was to write out anything and everything she believed. This was written about 2 years ago. As I read over the sheet I was struck by the contrast

between then and now in her belief system. How, back then, she was trapped in a vicious cycle. No longer is this true. I asked her if she would be willing to share with you what she, now, believes; the challenge she readily accepted because her desire is that others who are trapped can understand one can change the trajectory of their lives.

When we first met her she was in dire circumstances and believed that God was out to punish her..... always. She had difficulty believing the past need not keep repeating itself. Besetting cycles can be broken through the power of Jesus Christ. "Behold I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:19) becomes a tangible truth. I believe you will see, as you read her words, this gal has gleaned some deep wisdom through her journey.

## *I believe*

### What I Believe Now

**What you believe about God and what you believe about yourself, you will gravitate to.**

*When I came to Mustard Seed in the fall of 2017 my beliefs about God and myself were destroying my life. Beliefs that started in my early childhood that lead to one bad decision after another. Decisions birthed from brokenness that lead to destruction in my life. The belief that I would never be good enough for God so I tried to be perfect and failed so I would run away from God and the church. A belief that I would never be free of drugs and alcohol; that I would always be an addict. I believed that I wasn't a good mother and my son would grow up to be an addict just like me and his father. I believed that I was a failure with my finances because I went through a job loss and nearly lost everything I had. I believed that people didn't really like me and I could never be loved especially not by a holy God. I also believed I would always be this way because I had tried to change and failed over and over again and it wasn't till I fully surrendered to God that my beliefs began to change. I began to renew my mind with the word of God and good godly counsel from Bridget. Am I there yet? No, but I'm not where I used to be. It's a process.*

## What I believe now:

*I believe that God loves me unconditionally and He will never leave me nor forsake me no matter how many times I fail or mess up.*

*I believe that I'm a good mother who loves her son unconditionally, I don't have to be a perfect mother. God chose me to be Evan's mother because I would help shape Evan into the man he will become for God's plan.*

*I believe God will use me to break generational curses and my son will not become an addict or end up in prison like his father.*

*I believe that God will provide for me no matter how much money I make or how successful I become. He has never left us without.*

*I believe that people do like me and my life will help someone else who has gone through similar circumstances.*

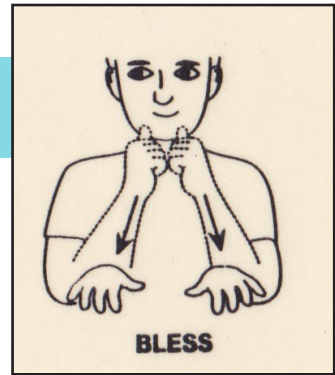
*I believe God has a great plan for my life and He is sovereign over the bad choices I've made and He will redeem every bad decision.*

*I believe He is still working on me because I will never arrive and that's okay. I will continue to make mistakes and fall short and He won't love me any less.*

*I believe it's never going to stop snowing*



I recently read that the American Sign Language word for bless begins with the palms upward and thumbs of both touching to the lips. From the mouth, the hands move downward opening up with the fingers spread and the palms facing down. “This beautiful sign expresses the blanket of abundance that covers us as the Word of the Lord goes forth from His mouth. He speaks blessing over us day and night, Shalom is a Hebrew greeting that offers a blessing upon every part of a person’s life. The shalom of God includes harmony, wholeness, completeness in our emotions, mind and relationships, and provision. Shalom is fulfillment, restoration and reconciliation. Through Jesus Christ we are covered with the Shalom of God.” (Flower Girl cards)



<https://98ecf1c0-a-ad30abc7-s-sites.googlegroups.com>

Our friend who wrote what she believes is evidence of one who is now living and walking as a blessed, beloved daughter of the King of Kings.

Thank you for your investment in the lives of mothers and children. You are playing a vital role in facilitating the breaking of generational tethers.

Grace and Peace

All of us at Mustard Seed

