

MAGDALENA TODAY

... *making a difference*

The Waiting Room

by Judy Douglass



The waiting room at Mayo Clinic is large. Many people are hoping for help - good news, not bad news. I was there with Nick and Debbie and baby Ethan, waiting for Nick to get the results of his liver tests and procedure. The news was not good - he needed to go on the transplant list soon. That was not what we wanted to hear.

I am not fond of waiting rooms, especially medical ones where I am waiting for some unpleasant procedure, or to hear news about me, or a loved one. Other waiting rooms might include ones for job interviews, loan or scholarship approvals, in the principal's office, or the police station. Waiting often means uncertainty, anxiety and possible unpleasant outcomes.

I'm sure, however, that one of God's favorite words is WAIT, and one of His favorite places for me is The Waiting Room. Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord" (New International Version).

Almost no one likes waiting, especially in fast-paced, have-it-all-now cultures. Especially for those of us who like to be in control, to have things our way...

But life, in general, is a lesson in waiting. For me that has been so true. I think the phrases I hear most from the Lord are "I love you," "I forgive you," and "Wait."

There have been so many "waiting rooms" in my life: for direction from God; to get married; to have children; to figure out my life after I had children; for financial needs; through various challenging stages with my children; through my dad's illness and death; to see what God has planned for my children...

One long-term waiting room has been for our son, Joshua, to truly surrender to the Lord. This has been a long, hard wait. Waiting seems to imply patience, but for me it is more like perseverance. He is on a better path now, but of course I would like the journey to move along more quickly.

The waiting with Nick has changed. His last visit to Mayo brought good news - surprising improvement in his liver and probably a year before his next visit.

Recently, God has given me some clues on how to wait. The key is in applying the exhortations/commands in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and Philippians 4: 4-8.

God isn't kidding when He tells us to rejoice always, to pray about everything, to give thanks in all things, and to think on praiseworthy things. This does not come naturally.

continued on page 2

Issue 4

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The JESUS Film Project®

A Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ

100 Lake Hart Drive, #3100

Orlando, FL 32832



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The Waiting Room, continued from page 1

But when I make the choice to come to the Lord honestly, to express my feelings and my fears, then to say thank you and to praise him, amazing things begin to happen: My attitude changes; my fear, despair, impatience lessens; I begin to truly rejoice; hope returns. And God then has an open door to do the good He desires to do, above and beyond what I can ask or think or imagine.

The word wait in Scripture usually has a connotation of “with expectancy,” even “with hope.” When we wait on the Lord with praise, thanksgiving and rejoicing, our waiting turns into anticipation - of what great good our great God is going to do!

So, I encourage you: wait on the Lord and expect something wonderful!

Judy Douglass is passionate about the needs of women globally. She is the wife of Steve Douglass, president of Campus Crusade for Christ International.



A Movie Night With a Purpose



Almost 300 very attentive ladies viewed *Magdalena: Through Her Eyes* at the Lovelady Center in Birmingham in March. Lovelady is home to over 450 women and children who need a good meal, a warm bed, and Christ's love.

The ladies were very responsive, and when led in prayer after the movie, some of them indicated that they had received Christ. Several groups have participated in the Reflections of Hope study since then. It was truly an awesome privilege to introduce Maggie to these searching, destitute women.

Michelle, AL

*“There are women everywhere who are very confused about how God feels about them. What Jesus did to elevate women has not been duplicated in any world religion. Today we are so visual; we love films. That's the beauty of the *Magdalena* film— we're watching the heartbeat of Jesus' love for these women. We look at His eyes as He's looking down and ministering to these women, and we feel the impact of His love too.”*

Sharon Jaynes, author of *What God Really Thinks About Women*



The Journey



I would recommend *Reflections of Hope* to any and all ladies' Bible study groups. After showing the *Magdalena* movie at Crossville Mission Bible Training Center, a drug rehabilitation center in Crossville, Tennessee, we shared how each of us relates to one or more of the women in the film. Many of the ladies shared their brokenness, their fears, their struggles and their desire to grow in their faith.

During the *Reflections of Hope* study, we found we were able to relate to the needs of the women in the film and how Jesus touched them—just like He touches us. Week by week we were able to clarify what it means to have a saving relationship with Christ and how to allow Him to empower us. It's been a joy to see God transform each of us through *Reflections of Hope*.

I was personally touched as the facilitator of this study and a friend to each lady in the group. These are my life-long sisters, girls I will spend eternity with. It's hard to find the words to describe the joy of being able to listen, encourage, share and hear the hearts of my precious sisters. To see God transform them, and me, in His timing and His ways is a sweet essence, a fragrance that circles between God and us.



The structure of the *Magdalena* lessons is easy to follow, easy to supplement and has room for real-life testimonies that come when a group is open to sharing their hearts. It is written with such sensitivity, allowing each person to share to the depth that God is encouraging them to share.

You know how it is when you go in to bless others ... and come out being incredibly touched and blessed yourself, more than you could ever imagine? I don't know if it meant more to them or more to me!

Marcia, TN



Women around the world ultimately face the same heart issues that we do. *Magdalena* USA/Americas and Global Media Outreach have partnered to create an inviting strategy that connects women from 195 countries with the gospel. Women seeking spiritual answers via the Internet are often directed to www.JesusForWomen.com, where they are given an opportunity to accept Jesus into their lives as they watch Sharon Jaynes, author and *JESUS* film ministry partner, share her personal story including a clear and compelling gospel presentation.

MAGDALENA in Action



*“I didn't know anything about Jesus until tonight,” commented one girl who attended the April *Magdalena* movie night in Prescott, Ariz. For two years I have been waiting for an opportunity like this and because Mingus Mountain Academy is a federally funded home for troubled teenage girls, it's a miracle that we could even show the film.*

*It was a wonderful night and many of the nearly 100 girls attending had open hearts. Questions from the *Magdalena Today* website provided rich group discussions after the movie and because of the hunger and questions, everyone said they just needed more time. Several girls prayed to receive Christ.*

One girl with tears in her eyes said, “This movie made me realize how much Jesus loves me and it makes me want to live my life in a way that would please him.” Other comments I heard were: “I didn't know anything about Jesus until tonight. This is the first time I really understood the reason Jesus came to earth and had to die.” “The Bible is hard to understand but this film made it all come together.”

We have a mission field right here in our hometown.

Melody, AZ



Discover the impact *Magdalena: Through Her Eyes* could make in your life or your ministry. Audiences all over the world are deeply touched by Jesus' intensely personal interactions of healing and forgiveness. In *Magdalena*, Mary Magdalene narrates the true story of Jesus from her unique perspective as a woman. As she follows Jesus and tells the stories of the woman at the well and others, she reminds viewers of His compassion for women and men alike. People feel God's love deeply while watching the movie and have a new sense of personal worth.

We invite you to host a movie night with a purpose in your city, church or home, and then to dig deeper into God's word through the companion Bible study, *Reflections of Hope*.

Visit www.MagdalenaToday.com to find out more and to download resources for your movie night with a purpose.