



**Breaking Cycles. Restoring Lives.  
EMPOWERING WOMEN BEHIND BARS.**

*Presented by*

Sherry A Sims, Founder

EMPOWERED WOMEN OF GOD INTERNATIONAL, INC

**GOD OUR  
PROVIDER**

Phil 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

CMCA 2026 SUMMIT | MAY 14 - 16, 2026 | WHEATON COLLEGE



EMPOWERING WOMEN BEHIND BARS

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# Breaking Cycles. Restoring Lives.

*Where grace meets transformation — one woman at a time.*

+ CMCA WORKSHOP | EMPOWERED WOMEN OF GOD INTERNATIONAL

# Who We Are



## Founded in Faith

Established **February 2015** in Tulsa, Oklahoma by founder **Sherry Sims**, a domestic violence survivor whose personal story became the foundation of this ministry.

1



## National Reach

Operating in multiple facilities across **12 states** — Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Texas.

2



## 4,200+ Lives Impacted

Thousands of female inmates **mentored and transformed** since 2015. Hundreds of personal letters answered monthly through The Freedom Project correspondence course.

3



## 501(c)(3) Nonprofit

**Free resources** distributed to prisons, jails, and correctional facilities nationwide — at absolutely **no cost** to inmates or the facilities we serve.

4



**Who do you see?**

# The Crisis Behind Bars



190,600

Women and girls incarcerated in the U.S. **on any given day** — a staggering, ongoing reality

Prison Policy Initiative, 2024



#1 in Nation

**Oklahoma** incarcerates more women per capita than any other state — 151 per 100,000 women, **double** the national average

Wall Street Journal, 2018



68%

Of released women **re-offend within 5 years** when cycles of abuse and trauma go unaddressed

Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2016



58%

Of incarcerated women met criteria for a **substance use disorder** in the year before entering prison

Prison Policy Initiative, 2024



TRAUMA BEHIND THE CRIME

# Understanding the Root: Trauma Behind Bars

Most incarcerated women are survivors first.

"Women's criminal experiences are often best understood in the context of unhealthy relationships."

— DOJ, National Institute of Corrections



75%

**experienced domestic violence in the year leading up to their offense**

*Prison Policy Initiative, 2017*



60%

**of Oklahoma female prisoners were victims of sexual and physical abuse as children**

*Dr. Susan Sharp, University of Oklahoma*



76%

**show indicators of past or current mental health problems**

*BJS Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016*



58%

**are mothers of minor children — incarceration breaks families across generations**

*Prison Policy Initiative, 2024*



90%+

**have been victims of domestic violence in their adult lives — cycles that go unaddressed**

*Bureau of Justice Statistics*



# A Three-Facet Approach to **Lasting Transformation**




1

STEP 1

## Evangelism

Reaching women with the Gospel — meeting them exactly where they are through personal story, relatable truth, and God's redeeming love.

 [Searching for Love Minibook](#)



2

STEP 2

## Discipleship

Growing women in deep, abiding faith through a structured 30-lesson curriculum — completed at their own pace, from their own cell.

 [The Freedom Project — 30 Lessons](#)




3

STEP 3

## Trauma Healing

Restoring women from the inside out — addressing the wounds of abuse, addiction, and loss through Spirit-led, in-person care.

 [Her Journey In-Person Program](#)

Each facet **builds on the last** — meeting women where they are.

“

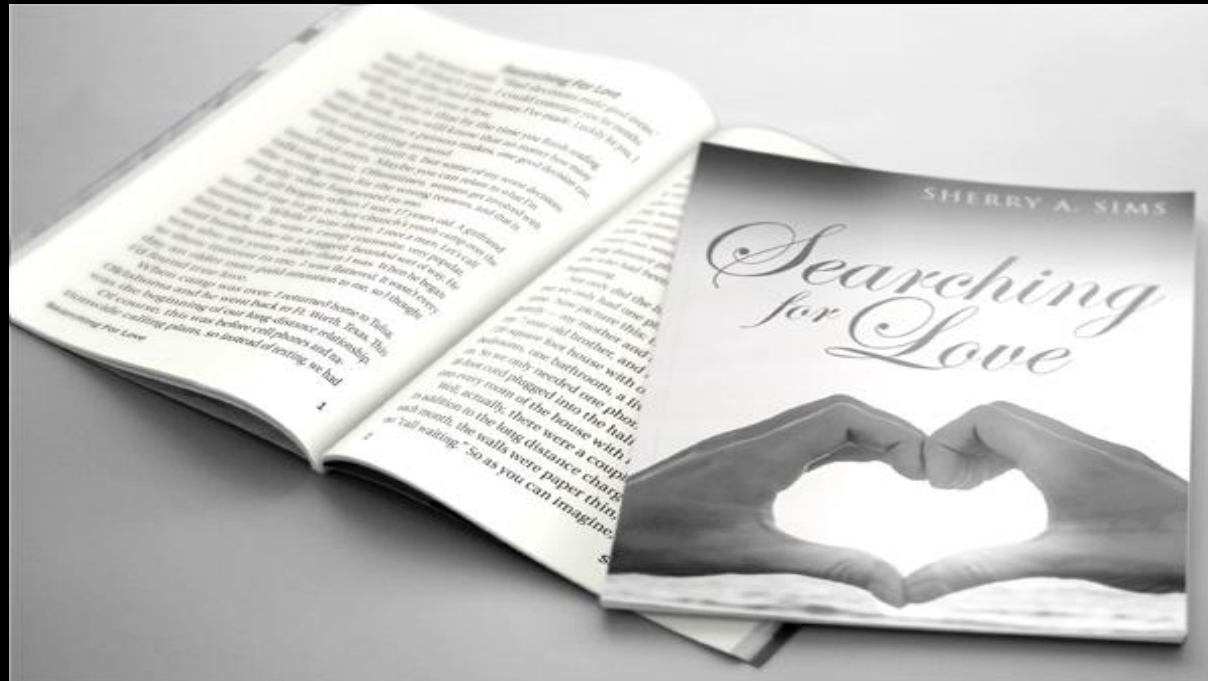
As a Chaplain in a women's prison for 22 years, I have seen many books, but **Searching for Love** is one of the **BEST**. It is easily understood, and women are able to relate to each and every chapter.

I highly recommend this book.

”

**RETIRED CHAPLAIN KATHEY MCCOLLUM**

TULSA, OKLAHOMA · 22 YEARS OF WOMEN'S PRISON MINISTRY



# Searching for **Love** — The Minibook Ministry

## THE MINIBOOK



✓ **FREE Distribution to Prisons, Jails & Correctional Facilities**

- Written from founder's **personal survival story** — authentic, lived experience that resonates
- Language designed for **accessibility and relatability** — incarcerated women connect with every chapter

## CHAPTERS COVER

♥ Personal Testimony

💬 Communication

👤 Personal Care

*"I loved your book. I couldn't put it down... I want a new life too."*

— INMATE, EDDIE WARRIOR CORRECTIONAL CENTER, TAFT, OK

## THE IMPACT



- ✓ Women **accepts Jesus Christ** as personal Savior while incarcerated
- ✓ Serves **interested in The Freedom Project** — 30-lesson discipleship curriculum
- ✓ Women **identifies abusive relationships** before release — breaking cycles in prisons, jails, and correctional facilities across 10 states
- ✓ **requests prayer**



Reading the minibook leads directly into **Facet 2: The Freedom Project** — a 30-lesson **faith-based correspondence course curriculum**.

**NEXT: DISCIPLESHIP →**

# The Freedom Project

30 Lessons · Life-Changing Faith · National Reach



## 30-Lesson Curriculum

Faith-based **correspondence course** designed for incarcerated women to complete at their own pace — from their cell, one lesson at a time.



## Active in 12 States

Reaching women in correctional facilities across the nation:



## Hundreds of Letters Monthly

Dedicated **staff and volunteers** personally answer every lesson submitted — providing mentorship, encouragement, and spiritual guidance by correspondence.



## Breaking Recidivism Cycles

Directly addresses the **relationships and patterns** that lead women back to incarceration — building a faith foundation for lasting freedom.



# Changed by Grace

REAL WORDS FROM REAL WOMEN

“ TESTIMONY

I just read *Searching for Love*. I, too, am a victim of domestic violence. I fought back, and my abuser lost his life, [which is] why I'm in jail.

While in Jail (and before jail), God had been calling me to turn my life to Him,

I'm very interested in receiving your material and guidance. Please send me anything you have that may help me on my spiritual journey.

---

**Inmate**

David L Moss Justice Center — Tulsa, OK



“ TESTIMONY

I struggled for years to even read the Bible due to a bad experience where the Bible was read during the times I was beat[en] by my husband. Since then, I have begun reading the Bible and trying to live according to God's will.

I feel that I make more progress daily and even more since beginning my studies with Empowered Women of God. I discover something new about myself with each study.

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**Inmate**

Pottawatomie Co Public Safety Ctr — Shawnee, OK



“ TESTIMONY

My incarceration is a blessing in disguise. It saved my life from the jaws of fentanyl addiction. I died so many times out there. I became suicidal almost because I couldn't care less if I did die — I would have welcomed it. But now I'm grateful to be alive. I love who I'm becoming... I'm grateful for Jesus, who loved me through it and never turned His back on me, even when I did. And I'm thankful for you ladies taking the time to do this for us. You're special and wonderful.

---

**Inmate**

Dr. Eddie Warrior Correctional Center — Taft, OK





FACET 3 OF 3

# Trauma Healing — Her Journey

*Healing from the Inside Out*



*"Equipping women to envision a bright and productive future — upon release and beyond."*  
HER JOURNEY MISSION

## PROGRAM ELEMENTS



### **In-Person Program**

Delivered directly inside correctional facilities by trained ministry facilitators — meeting women where they live.



### **Trauma Addressed in Spiritual Context**

Integrates faith-based healing with trauma-informed care principles — the whole woman, spirit, soul, and body.



### **Behavioral Transformation**

Equips women to recognize and break harmful patterns of thinking, relating, and choosing — from the inside out.



### **Mentorship Model**

Women are never left alone — ongoing support, accountability, and community walk alongside each participant.



### **Pre-Release Preparation**

Addresses the unhealthy relationships most likely to cause recidivism — so women leave ready for life on the outside.

# How You Can Partner With Us

Your role is the bridge between our ministry and the women who need it most.

1



## Make Contact

Reach out to Empowered Women of God International at **918.308.1110**, visit our **website**, or by **email** to express interest.

2



## Request Materials

Request complimentary copies of the *Searching for Love* minibook for your facility's women's population — at no cost.

3



## Facilitate Distribution

Distribute the minibook to women in your care and encourage them to share their responses by mailing in the postcard.

4



## Enroll in The Freedom Project

Women can enroll in the correspondence course and begin the **30-lesson curriculum** at their own pace — at no cost.

5



## Invite Her Journey

Work with our team to schedule in-person *Her Journey* trauma healing classes at your facility.

★ EVERY FACILITY CAN TAKE ACTION TODAY

# Your Next Step: Partner With Us

01



Call **918.308.1110** or visit our website to request your first shipment of *Searching for Love* minibooks

02



Encourage women in your population to enroll in **The Freedom Project** correspondence course — at no cost

03



Schedule a conversation with our team about hosting **Her Journey** in-person trauma healing classes at your facility

04



Share our ministry with other chaplains and facilities across your network — **there is no cost to partner**

05



**Pray with us** for the women behind bars who are one encounter away from a transformed life

GET STARTED NOW



**918.308.1110**

[empoweredwomenofgod.com](http://empoweredwomenofgod.com)

**\$0**

COST TO PARTNER  
ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED FREE



"He has sent me to proclaim  
freedom for the captives."

— ISAIAH 61:1



Together, we can break cycles, restore lives, and empower women to become who God created them to be.



## EMPOWERED WOMEN OF GOD INTERNATIONAL, INC.

### RESPONSE FORM

"We would love to hear from you. Please complete and return this form."

**YES** — Please send me copies of *Searching for Love*

*In this compelling memoir, Sherry openly shares her dramatic story as a runaway teenager who became a victim of abuse — a victim whose self, shaped by years of emotional manipulation and abuse, and the miraculous grace that ultimately saved her life. A powerful, hope-filled message for every woman searching for love.*

Number of Copies Requested \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Facility / Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES** — Please contact me about bringing the *Her Journey* program to the women in our facility

*Her Journey is a transformative, faith-based program for incarcerated women offered by Empowered Women of God International, Inc. We would be honored to partner with your facility.*

Your Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Title / Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time to Reach You: \_\_\_\_\_

"Thank you for your heart for women in need.  
Every response is a step of faith."

**RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:**

Empowered Women of God International, Inc.  
P O Box 99998  
Tulsa, OK 74177-9998

You may also reach us at: 918-948-6300 | [info@empoweredwomenofgod.org](mailto:info@empoweredwomenofgod.org)

# Breaking Cycles · Restoring Lives · Empowering Women Behind Bars



Spiritual  
Transformation



Generational Cycles  
Broken



Transformed  
Lives

 918.308.1110



empoweredwomenofgod.com



Tulsa, Oklahoma

*He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the captives.*

— ISAIAH 61:1



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INTERNATIONAL INC.

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Q & A