

What's Inside!

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Monthly Spotlight: *Forgotten Children, Inc.*

Tera Hilliard was born and raised in the Southland, in between the faster pace of downtown Los Angeles, and the sun kissed shoreline of the Pacific Ocean. City living educated her early, experiencing a colorful melting pot and mosaic of cultures as well as the variety of lifestyles which the diverse environment brings. In her neighborhood and most of LA County, there is no escaping the wide gap between the rich, famous and 'everyone else'.



Tera Hilliard, President/CEO, FCI.

Raising up and caring for a family in the city takes a great amount of work and hustle, and Tera has been especially diligent to provide her children the best opportunities possible. Her own personal history, as well as having daughters of her own, prompted her journey into anti-human trafficking work, with a deep-rooted desire to uplift the vulnerable women and girls living in her community.

In 2014, during a moment of prayer and reflection on Isaiah 61 which speaks of the blessings that can come to God's people if they are faithful to Him, Tera envisioned a ministry dedicated to healing and empowerment. This vision materialized when she met Pastor Paula Daniels, founder of Forgotten Children, Inc. (FCI), an organization committed to aiding victims of human trafficking. Recognizing their shared mission to rescue, restore, educate, and bring hope to help women in need, Hilliard joined FCI and, in 2015, became its President and CEO.

Since 2016, under the compassionate leadership of Tera Hilliard, Forgotten Children, Inc. has reached over 5,000 individuals with

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Monthly Spotlight: *Forgotten Children, Inc.*

hope, healing, and life-saving services. From Los Angeles to surrounding counties, FCI provides comprehensive care for survivors of human trafficking—meeting them right where they are.

At the heart of this mission is the Drop-In Center in Lynwood, CA, located near some of the most at-risk areas. There, survivors find emergency support, critical resources, and a team committed to walking with them toward freedom.

Road to Freedom is an eight-week reentry diversion initiative designed for women incarcerated for sex work and sexual exploitation. This program is implemented in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and is conducted within the Century Regional Detention Facility in Lynwood, California. Using curriculum titled "Debunking the Fairytale," Road to Freedom and relationship building with FCI's support staff and volunteers, effectively reduces participants' recidivism. They focus on helping women increase their self-esteem, recognize unhealthy relationships, and overcome personal barriers.





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Additionally, FCI assists with educational pursuits, such as obtaining GEDs, and provides legal support for record expungement, collaborating with local prosecutors and attorneys.

Recognizing the disproportionate impact of trafficking on Black girls and young women—who comprise over 92% of identified victims in Los Angeles County—FCI emphasizes culturally sensitive services tailored to the unique experiences of women of color. They also engage in community outreach, education, and advocacy, hosting events like the “Stop the Demand” conference to address the societal factors contributing to trafficking. Collaborations with law enforcement, such as joint clean-up efforts with the LAPD, aim to improve community conditions and raise awareness.

In addition to their work in LA County, Forgotten Children also operates a faith-based residential home, ‘Rachel’s House of Healing,’ in San Bernardino County which is dedicated to supporting adult women survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. At Rachel’s House of Healing, participants are provided a safe, supportive space to begin their healing journey. 24-hour care includes trauma-informed, wraparound services. Survivors often need mental health support, case management, addiction and recovery treatment, and life skills development. Included in their job training programs is their social enterprise, Rachel’s Sew n’ Sow which trains residents in business planning and management and practical skills for job placement and retention.

Despite financial challenges common to faith-based nonprofits, Hilliard remains steadfast in her mission. She aspires to position FCI as a leading organization in the fight against human trafficking, advocating for systemic change and expanded support for survivors.



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Tera's insight is regularly sought after by politicians, churches and key decision makers who recognize her valuable expertise and skills in public speaking and preaching. She and Forgotten Children, Inc. demonstrate unwavering dedication as they continue to provide hope and healing to those affected by human trafficking in Los Angeles and beyond.

Learn ways to offer your support for Forgotten Children, Inc., by visiting:
<https://forgottenchildreninc.org>



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MINISTRIES

JARRET KEITH
FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, TESTIMONY
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Jarret Keith is the founder and Executive Director of Testimony Ministries, dedicated to supporting individuals and communities who are experiencing the negative consequences of mass incarceration and building a safer society through gospel-shaped programs and services that serve as alternatives to incarceration. Jarret's personal journey from incarceration to ministry leadership serves as the foundation for Testimony's mission.

At 19, he was arrested and faced a life sentence. During his incarceration, he experienced the transformative power of the gospel and began his redemptive freedom journey not knowing if he would ever be free. While in prison, where he became a college graduate and participated in other programs, such as in The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI), an intensive biblical studies program that equipped him for ministry work.

After being granted his freedom, Jarret became an ordained pastor and pursued theological education at Fuller Theological Seminary where he received a master's degree. He is now completing their Doctorate program, while being committed to ministry in the prison and community settings.

Established in 2020, Testimony Ministries offers pre-release and reentry programs shaped by the gospel's redemptive values and principles. They provide a peer support network, reentry housing, educational opportunities, workforce development, family support, and community advocacy.

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FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, TESTIMONY
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In addition, they have begun forming house churches that serve the urban community, provide a credible witness of the gospel through works of love-driven justice, and offer hands-on experience for believers returning from incarceration to apply their theological education by serving in the church.

One of Testimony Ministries' key initiatives, the Empowered Inside program, focuses on personal and community leadership development for incarcerated individuals, culminating in graduation ceremonies which celebrate their progress and faith.

Pastor Jarret's work emphasizes the importance of community support and relevant discipleship in the reentry process. Through Testimony Ministries, he continues to inspire and assist those transitioning from incarceration to active, faith-driven, thriving lives in their communities.

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JARRET KEITH
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(Q) The deck seemed stacked against you, spending your young adult years in prison, and yet you overcame seemingly unsurmountable barriers. Help us understand difficulties your Testimony community also experience including transitioning from prison to being physically free today. In what ways Testimony Ministries is addressing them?

(A) One of the greatest barriers was access to real meaningful ministry opportunities that took my years of experience and education into consideration. The second was finding belonging and support in the local church setting, while smiles and affirmation are great, having people that understand your challenges and are equipped to support you with relevant resources is important.

While I did pursue some ministry opportunities and jobs and attended church, there are actually few opportunities available for someone who has just come home in the ministry world, but in the secular social justice world there is an abundance of training programs and jobs looking to empower and hire our community of returning citizens because they see the value in us and our lived experience.

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JARRET KEITH
FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, TESTIMONY
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This did not make sense to me. If anyone should know about redemption and how to apply it in relevant ways, I thought it should be those who know the redeemer. Testimony Ministries is making a difference in this area by providing real opportunities for ministry and workforce training, experience and compensation that also understands and supports the challenges individuals are facing in reentry.

There is a system in place to incarcerate people that we all support with our taxes, so I wanted to create a system for the people of God to support that welcomes people home, provides gospel shaped reentry support and serves as an alternative to recidivism.

Our ministry programs are trauma-informed, developed and led by those with lived experience of incarceration.

This is a contextualized application of demonstrating the good news we believe, and we believe that Jesus was sent to set the prisoners free and give us abundant life.

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JARRET KEITH
FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE
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(Q) In addition, how are you working with other nonprofits, policymakers and correctional institutions, such as California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, to create change?

(A) We believe that the work of God's Kingdom is communal and collaborative. Our partnerships with local churches, educational institutions, other community-based justice focused organizations, and the California Department of Corrections are a testimony to the redemptive power of the gospel. Those who were once considered unworthy to be a part of society and separated from society are now innovating and leading transformative solutions alongside such entities. Through these partnerships we have experienced the transformation of harmful narratives about the neighbors who are currently and formerly incarcerated through creating proximity to the real stories of our community.

We are also seeing a greater interest from churches we partner with towards justice focused efforts, a greater openness from those we work with who are not faith-based to the role and value of faith supportive efforts and have received so much trust from CDCR that we have been able to bring individuals who have been released within the previous week back inside to inspire those who are still incarcerated. As a result, we have seen the redemptive system we are serving to build in our world grow in its reach, impact, and investment through our collaborative approach. Lastly, we have been able to uplift testimonies and the good news into unprecedented spaces.

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JARRET KEITH
FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE
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(Q) Your perspective on the unique challenges incarcerated students face, and creation of the Empowered Inside program are laying a new path for prison education. Share briefly about how your program came to be and a few key points which make Empowered Inside different from other classes, and why your students behind bars are excelling in their courses.

(A) Incarcerated students face multifaceted challenges. I serve as a professor teaching classes for students earning their bachelor's degree in prison and am also a fellow with a research foundation where we are developing a toolkit that supports educators providing holistic education within carceral settings. Most educational programs only consider the incarcerated students' academic learning, or their mind, but do not take into consideration the challenges and trauma of the carceral setting.

Also, most do not consider the students' personal wellness, the importance of a campus experience and student support that most receive in traditional educational settings. Lastly, these programs often are isolated, and students' connections are only tied to their participation and end once graduated. Students need more than academic or cognitive based learning; they also need community and practical skill building to thrive in their future application of knowledge and growth.

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Empowered Inside offers students with access to build real relationships that extend beyond the bars and into the community, to receive peer support and mentorship in their developmental process. They learn practical skills to be effective in their lives and relationships as they make efforts to apply their education, and it is building a real bridge for students to access a connection with higher education.

I experienced and noticed that incarcerated students often hit a dead end at some point in their educational journey, and once classes are exhausted there are no intentional efforts to continue the practical learning students desire. We forged a partnership with Fuller Theological Seminary to create an opportunity that provided a relational community that extends beyond the bars, practical skill building for life and leadership, and academic learning for incarcerated students who desire to pursue higher education.

Especially for TUMI graduates, this program allows them to continue their education and even begin to earn additional transferable credits towards a master's degree. Our hope is that these students will come home to live at Testimony House, receive more support and pursue a seminary education to become the leaders God has called them to be. Until then, we are working with Fuller to extend an opportunity for incarcerated students to access seminary before they come home.

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FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, TESTIMONY
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(Q) What are some next steps and long-term goals for Testimony Ministries as your outreach continues to expand? How might Serving USA's wide community of support be of assistance to help you meet your needs and reach these goals?

(A) Testimony Ministries is clear about what God has called us to be and do, real life examples of gospel shaped justice doing love driven justice for the glory of God and the good of our community. Serving USA has been a supporter of this journey in my personal life, being a TUMI graduate inside due to a Serving USA scholarship, and of Testimony Ministries since the very beginning. We are hopeful that more churches in CA and beyond will become collaborators in our mission, partnering to make Testimony House a place with more rooms to welcome our incarcerated neighbors home and expanding Empowered Inside to more incarcerated students.

We love to partner and collaborate and have found our inside flagship program partnerships with The Urban Ministry Institute and Fuller Theological Seminary to be blessed. One of the highlights for me personally, is to see the local churches we partner with experience that opening their doors and community to ours has turned out to become more of a blessing for them than they ever imagined. I would like to encourage these readers to do take 3 action steps in support of our mission and efforts:

1. Follow us on Instagram to be encouraged and stay connected @testimony_ministries_inc
2. Check out our website to see the great things God is doing and learn about the opportunities we have for them to Serve & Donate testimonyministries.org
3. Pray for something specific that God puts on their heart for Testimony Ministries once they learn more about who we are and what we do!



Testimonial Spotlight: *Restoration Ranch*

Founded in 2016 by Dr. Jenifer Wakefield, Restoration Ranch, Texas was born out of her experience working with at-risk women and recognizing the need for a safe, supportive environment for recovery. The ministry's mission is to offer help, hope, and healing through a comprehensive program that addresses the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of its participants.

The Restoration Ranch, Texas program is divided into three stages:

- 1. Foundations:** Focuses on establishing trust, healthy communication, and the basics of physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.
- 2. Elevation:** Emphasizes the development of life skills, personal responsibility, and the application of Christ-centered principles to daily living.
- 3. Destination:** Aims to prepare residents for reintegration into society by focusing on employment readiness, family relationships, and community involvement.

This month Restoration Ranch, Texas began pouring foundation to construct their state-of-the-art, 10-bedroom home for women, located near to Austin, Texas. Their expansion will provide opportunities for more participants to receive much needed care, which also impacts their families and communities as well. Recently Dr. Wakefield received a letter from the mother of a young adult daughter who was in addiction and captured by an abusive boyfriend.



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Testimonial Spotlight: *Restoration Ranch*

While the daughter refused help and intervention out of the situation at the time, her initial reach out to Dr. Jenifer Wakefield and Restoration Ranch, Texas, kept them connected through conversation, prayer, and walking through the loneliness of having a child unresponsive and in danger.

"Restoration Ranch, Texas is a beautiful program, and I wish every parent could know it exists. I am not sure how I found out about Restoration Ranch, Texas but during my lowest moment of pain regarding one of my older teen daughters, God brought me to Restoration Ranch, Texas (RRTX) and Jenifer Wakefield. Jenifer has created, with God's help; clearly, an intimate, safe, and genuine environment."





Testimonial Spotlight: *Restoration Ranch*

During our first phone call, which I termed my moment of desperation, Jenifer was there to calmly listen, reflect joy and serenity in her voice, and to hold space for me to process the grief of my daughter's choices and the bondage that my daughter was caught up with.

Jenifer and the RRTX team blessed me with personal phone calls, prayer, healthy solutions, and instant friendship, but Jenifer also could provide a safe and loving live-in home environment and professional counseling for my daughter, for when she would be open to spending time on the farm. As a mom, I instantly felt like there was hope. Hope for my daughter, most of all. Restoration Ranch, Texas helped remove the loneliness and helplessness that I was feeling of not being able to help my daughter or to know where to turn.

The beauty of having someone to walk alongside me in the darkness, offering the light and hope of Jesus Christ cannot be emphasized enough. I had a safe place to cry as a mom, a safe place to share my fears, a safe place to be prayed over, and ultimately a safe place to practice having courage that Jesus would intervene.

This was about two years ago. During this time, Jenifer and the RRTX team stayed in touch. I felt compassion, commitment, and genuine care. I had confidence that God was with us. My daughter chose to stay in an abusive relationship during this duration and did not choose to be in the program at Restoration Ranch, Texas.



Testimonial Spotlight: *Restoration Ranch*

However, Jenifer and the RRTX team's prayers were still heard and answered by God. My daughter was finally able to escape a few months ago and got into a safe family home environment to begin healing. All the praise goes to our Lord, but I could not manage this alone.

Jenifer and the RRTX team played a critical part in walking alongside me and my daughter in the valley of the shadow of death, helping me to fear no evil and to receive the comfort and the hope of God. Restoration Ranch, Texas and their mission truly reflects the will of Christ that healing, restoration and true freedom is possible."

To stay current with Restoration Ranch Texas and support their work, be sure to bookmark: <https://restorationranchtx.org>.



President's Corner



Greg Bruce
President, Serving USA

It is a privilege for Serving USA to be in relationship with, as well as provide support and resources to, incredible people whom God has placed in positions of leadership. They display passion, concern and whole-heartedly pour themselves into their work.

This month we highlight three extremely courageous organizations who combat injustice, who overcome apathy and remove evil in their communities through their demonstration of perseverance and embodying Christ's love.

Testimony Ministries' Jarret Keith (Los Angeles, CA) brings an exuberance and refreshingly honest perspective to his organization's mission to mobilize faith, create restorative opportunities, and advocate for gospel-centered justice. As shared in our Q&A feature, Jarret works extensively, not only to improve himself, but also to provide avenues for system-impacted individuals to receive life-changing relationships, educations and careers.

Jarret's hunger for knowledge and justice is shared with Tera Hilliard of Forgotten Children, Inc. (Los Angeles, CA). A visionary and prayer warrior, Tera's determination and tenacity elevates anti-human trafficking education and initiatives. From helping women leave the streets to teaching inmates behind bars, to providing safe reentry at Rachel's House of Healing, Forgotten Children, Inc. is reaching in and rescuing women from the clutches of exploitation.

Dr. Jenifer Wakefield is also committed to bringing women out of the darkness, including walking with them as they overcome traumas and addictions, by providing them a safe space at Restoration Ranch, Texas (Florence, TX). Her personal experiences inspired her own life transformation and working with women in need solidified her commitment to help others by creating a faith-first program where women can rediscover their self-worth.

President's Corner



Greg Bruce
President, Serving USA

Jarret Keith, Tera Hilliard and Dr. Jenifer Wakefield are all leaders we encourage our Serving USA community to connect with, to rally support behind and to consider praying for.

Find additional information on Serving USA's partners and impact by visiting:
www.servingusa.org

Thank you,

-Dr. Greg Bruce

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Partner Events



Ongoing

Mighty Oaks Foundation

Veteran, First Responder, & Spouse Recovery Programs

**Locations include San Miguel, CA; Junction, TX;
Haymarket, VA; Rising Star, TX; Cumberland, OH**

Our six-day intensive peer-to-peer Programs serve as the catalyst to help men & women discover the answers to life's big questions. Challenges related to the struggles of service, combat deployments and the symptoms of post-traumatic stress surface during this time together, but with the Tools, Strategies, and Resources provided throughout the week, each participant is equipped to make the necessary changes to live the life they were created to live.



Interested? See the details here:

<https://www.mightyoaksprograms.org/programs/recovery-programs/>



With keynote speaker, Joyce Abbott!

Veterans Association of North County
1617 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA



May 31st

Foundation for Women Warriors

Women Veterans Engage

Saturday, May 31st, 8:30AM

**Veterans Association of North County, 1617 Mission Ave.,
Oceanside, CA 92058**

Connect with women veterans nationally in a live broadcast with inspiring speakers and tons of resources! Gain valuable insights from keynote speaker Joyce Abbott, a retired educator, author, combat war veteran, and the namesake of award-winning TV series, Abbott Elementary.

Save your spot today to be a part of a nationwide movement that brings together women veterans to build meaningful relationship and amplify their voices.

Learn more here: <https://ow.ly/ILsh50VQnSk>

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Partner Events



June 29th

Powerhouse Ministries
2025 Graduation Dinner and Ceremony
Sunday, June 29th, 5:30PM
Lakeside Church, 745 Oak Ave. Pkwy,
Folsom, CA 95630-6802

Please join us for our 2025 Graduation Ceremony! We are excited to invite you to

our first-ever combined graduation honoring this year's graduates of our Women & Children's Center, Men's Residential Recovery Center, and the Powerhouse Leadership College. *Dress is Semi-Formal*

Learn more about our Residential Recovery Programs and Leadership College at phmfolsom.org/events.



August 8th & 9th

The SoulFisher Ministries
Objection Overruled Women's Conference
Friday, August 8th & Saturday, August 9th
Friendly Temple Church, 5515 Dr. Martin Luther King
Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112

A space where faith, ministry, and business collide. Together, we'll declare, "Order in the Court!"—breaking down every stronghold and bringing order to every aspect of our lives. Let's rise and claim what belongs to us.



For event schedule and registration, see:
<https://www.shawntellefisher.com/conf>

Partner Events



October 4th & 5th

A New Way of Life

Justice On Trial Film Festival

Weekend of October 4th, 11AM to October 5th, 6:00PM

Loyola Marymount University, 1 LMU Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Join us for a powerful weekend of films that expose the injustices of the criminal legal system, explore real solutions, and uplift voices too often silenced or misrepresented.

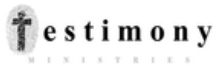
This year's festival will feature groundbreaking films, keynote speakers, and meaningful discussions you won't want to miss.

www.justiceontrialfilmfestival.net



Providing Grace and Redemption through Christ for Prisoners, Women in Recovery, and Military Veterans

Get In Contact



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<https://www.sutkprisonministries.org>



Questions?

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR
CONCERNS REGARDING INFORMATION WITHIN
THIS NEWSLETTER,

PLEASE CONTACT [INFO@SERVINGUSA.ORG](mailto:info@servingusa.org)

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