

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Krista Coleman-Baker and I have the distinct honor and privilege of sharing my personal testimony regarding my experience in the Yoo House Ministries Program. In May of 2006 I found myself at a crossroad in my life when forced with the decision to move out of my comfortable 3 bedroom duplex my husband, daughter and I had grown accustomed to. Earlier in the year my husband had announced that yet again he struggled with remaining in a marriage he had time and time again questioned and determined that he could no longer run from his true feelings leaving us behind while he tried to figure out what he really wanted out of life. Needless to say in the 3 1/2 years that we had been married this was not unfamiliar territory and moving to Austin was a last ditch effort to save our marriage. Something was different about this time though b/c I had asked God back in January to help me see myself the way he saw me. For the first time in my life I admitted that I was clinically depressed-buried my mom back in 05' and as a result on Wellbutrin; bruised and battered woman-emotionally, physically, mentally and I knew I needed to do something about that. I was tired of living in hell and I no longer wanted to subject myself or my child to that. I didn't give him all the credit for what went wrong and also admitted that part of the problem was b/c I was grieving and if mom were alive she wouldn't want me living like this either so with God's help I solicited the help of my friends/co-workers and came across an ad in the Greensheet regarding a Christian Recovery House so I called and that's when I met Emily. First off, she listened and offered words of encouragement and shared her own personal experience of being a single mother. We agreed to meet at the South House b/c that was going to be the best fit given the fact that I had Reese with me. Consequently, it was a divine appointment b/c one of my co-workers knew Pastor James; they worked together and the rest is history. I now know that without a shadow of a doubt when I look back as to who I was a year ago you wouldn't be able to recognize me-I was so depressed May 05'-I was having panic attacks/clinically depressed/on meds/seeing a Christian counselor/worst possible working environment-charter school from hell/being verbally, physically,mentally attacked by my husband/my daughter kept me alive on several days b/c I wanted to be with my mom BUT GOD!!! BUT GOD!! HE ALLOWED PASTOR JAMES AND EMILY WHO DON'T EVEN KNOW MY WHOLE STORY/SHARED PARTS OF IT WITH THEM, I BELIEVE IT WAS PART OF GOD'S DIVINE PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR PASTOR JAMES AND EMILY TO CROSS MY PATH B/C THEY HAVE TRULY BEEN AN INSPIRATION-IN WAYS THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW. EMILY IS STRICT, BUT COMPASSIONATE, WISE, PATIENT, LOVING, HARD, BEAUTIFUL YET MEEK AND GENTLE, VIRTUOUS, BUT REFUSES TO ACCEPT MEDIOCRITY OR ENABLE ANYONE!! I LOVE THAT ABOUT HER. SHE IS TRULY AN EXAMPLE AND I'LL ADMIT WE BUMPED HEADS ONE TIME, BUT GOD SAID "TOUCH NOT MY ANOINTED" AND I QUICKLY SUBMITTED. SHE HAS A HEART FOR THIS MINISTRY SO MUCH SO THAT SHE GAVE UP HER COMFORTABLE LIFE TO FOLLOW GOD AND I ADMIRE HER STRENGTH AND CHARACTER. SHE'S EXTREMELY MOTHERING, BUT TAKES CARE OF US LITTLE HENS. PASTOR JAMES HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT OF A FATHER FIGURE TO ME SINCE MY FAMILY/DAD IS BACK IN HOUSTON-HE IS WISE, COMPASSIONATE, PATIENT, HOLDS NO PUNCHES, STRONG/ASSERTIVE AND SPEAKS WITH SUCH CANDOR AND TRUTH THAT YOU CAN'T HELP BUT COMPREHEND. HE DOESN'T SUGAR COAT ANYTHING WHICH I APPRECIATE SINCE ONE MUST BE AWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS AND JUST SPEAKS THE GOD'S HONEST TRUTH: SIMPLE AND STRAITFORWARD-HE TOO HAS A HEART FOR THIS MINISTRY AND THEY INSPIRE ME ON A WEEKLY BASIS TO BE ALL THAT GOD HAS CALLED ME TO BE. I HOPE TO ONE DAY MANAGE A SHELTER FOR BATTERED WOMEN. I AM BECAUSE THEY ARE!!!