

A Powerful Story Of Faith, Forgiveness and Redemption

A Shooter and Victim Share Their Parallel Journeys, Revealing the Ripple Effect of Crime

Face to Face: Our Story of Crime, Repentance, and Forgiveness

by Misty Wallace & Keith Blackburn with Kirk Blackard

The night of October 18, 1992, eighteen-year-old Misty Wright stopped at a Burger King parking lot in Indianapolis to use a pay phone. Keith Blackburn, also eighteen and intoxicated on alcohol and drugs, saw her and decided to steal her car. He botched the theft, but shot her in the face, leaving her for dead.

She survived. Keith was apprehended and charged with attempted murder. He denied everything, but was convicted and sentenced to twenty-one years in prison.

The incident had devastating effects on Misty's life and plans for the future. She was filled with fear and anger, suffered from severe depression and exhibited a number of symptoms of post-traumatic stress, including an attempted suicide. Her state of mind would swing wildly from hate and vengeance to faith and forgiveness, and back again. Eighteen years after the shooting, Misty contacted Keith—and forgave him.

Keith did eight years and eight months of hard time behind bars at Indiana's Pendleton Correctional Facility. He spent the first several years in a downward spiral of denial, cynicism and bad behavior. But after an epiphany involving his mother and a corrections officer on his twenty-first birthday, he focused on his faith, received his GED, started college and turned his life around. Upon release he finished college and earned a Master of Divinity degree.

Keith's release brought back, and even exacerbated, Misty's feelings of fear and anger. She wanted to know why Keith had unleashed such a brutal act of violence upon her. She had made several unsuccessful attempts to contact Keith through official Department of Correction channels.

In 2010, Misty located Keith on Google and contacted him over Facebook. Keith responded with his phone number. This exchange began an amazing process of redemption and reconciliation for the two of them. They and their immediate families have become "best friends" in the full sense of that phrase.

Keith and Misty now travel together around the country to jointly tell their story of crime and redemption at churches, restorative justice conferences and in the media. They share their experiences for the benefit of others by working together to help victims of crime and prison inmates restore their broken lives.

In *Face to Face*, through chapters that alternate between their perspectives, Keith and Misty tell their story with the assistance of Kirk Blackard. Kirk is Chairman of the Board of Bridges To Life, a large restorative justice organization. The three have worked together to present a compelling chronicle of conflict, faith and peace involving Keith and Misty and their families, with the state judicial system, and within the tough worlds of crime victims and incarcerated offenders.

MISTY WALLACE & KEITH BLACKBURN
with KIRK BLACKARD

Face to Face



*Our Story of Crime,
Repentance, and Forgiveness*

BOOK DETAILS

March 15, 2016

307 pages

Paperback, \$14.99

ISBN: 978-1-52360-861-4

Non-fiction

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About the Authors

Misty Wallace is the Indianapolis Regional Coordinator for Bridges to Life, a large restorative justice ministry that operates in several Indiana prisons. Prior to joining Bridges to Life, she was a medical assistant for 18 years. She lives near Indianapolis with her husband, Matt, and their children.

Keith Blackburn serves as chaplain of the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility, a state prison that helps Indiana inmates prepare to return to a productive life in society. He holds a Master of Divinity degree and is also pastor of Beyond Prison Gates Assembly, a church in Indianapolis that ministers to those who have been released. Keith lives in Indianapolis with his wife, Barbara, and their children.

Kirk Blackard is a retired lawyer and corporate executive with extensive experience in conflict management. He is Chairman of the Board of the faith-based restorative justice ministry, Bridges to Life. He has written six books on subjects related to *Face to Face*. Kirk and his wife, Marcia, live in Houston.

About Bridges to Life

Founded in 2000 in Houston, Bridges to Life is a faith-based restorative justice ministry that aims to connect communities to prisons in an effort to reduce the recidivism rate, reduce the number of crime victims and enhance public safety. The spiritual mission of Bridges to Life is to minister to victims and offenders in an effort to show them the transforming power of God's love and forgiveness.

News tie-ins & core messages

- *Face to Face*: A compelling personal narrative of forgiveness, redemption and inspiration
- The Ripple Effect of Crime: A side-by-side comparison of the lives and experiences of a victim and a perpetrator
- Bridges to Life: A restorative justice ministry aimed at reducing recidivism rates, with programs in Texas, Indiana, Washington, California and Florida
- Second Chances: Exploring and understanding the intersections of repentance and forgiveness
- The Road to Redemption: A look at denial versus responsibility, pride versus remorse, and hatred and vengeance versus forgiveness and love
- Substance abuse – Keith's testimony about the role of drugs and alcohol in criminal activity

Praise for the book

"Misty's and Keith's journeys offer a compelling story of the power of repentance and forgiveness. Anyone who has a troubled relationship with another can benefit from reading it."

—Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking* and *The Death of Innocents*

"*Face to Face* is a true story of violence, terror and pain which ends with redemption, reconciliation and restoration. It is a gripping read that will get you inside the thought processes of the victim and perpetrator at the same points in time, and educate you about the criminal mind and the excruciating pain that victims experience. Warning: you will cry at times, but you will celebrate at the end! A book rarely holds the reader in its grip while educating so broadly and thoroughly."—Ed Davis, Chair, Restorative Justice Ministries Network of Texas

Media Contact: Elena Meredith, 512-481-7096, elena@prbythebook.com



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