

Notes for Virginia Morton's story shared during webinar on April 28, 2009

Where were you born and raised? Spiritual upbringing?

Born in Richmond, grew up with the WBTS. Family Methodist but somewhat irregular church attenders and we never really discussed Christ at home. I longed for more.

When did you commit your life to Christ.

Life is a series of peaks and valleys, but we should rejoice in the valleys because that's when we depend on God, we grow, and He turns our lives in different directions.

When I was 33 and then living in Culpeper, I had just our daughter, truly a gift from God after 8 years of trying unsuccessfully to have a child. When she was 9 months old I had a miscarriage and my father died. I went through a time of deep depression and was having trouble sleeping, headaches, I thought I was dying. God draws nearest in the tough times and we should be thankful for them. I realized I was afraid of death because I had never really given my life to Christ. My minister inspired me to do so and to become much more active in the church, and I decided to do something totally different and I became an interior designer. Taught Sunday School, organized fundraisers, wrote children's plays and was youth leader. So busy that when my daughter went to college I was burned out and drifted away for a while. We can become so busy with church business that we lose the fire.

What prompted you to write *Marching Through Culpeper*?

When my daughter finished college and left for NY and my husband had gotten his dream job, I felt useless, wondered what to do with the rest of my life. Again went through a very tough time. I suppose I was experiencing the Empty Nest syndrome. I wanted to give back to the community and I was doing volunteer work, but I needed more of a challenge. I wanted to make a lasting contribution. Books could be enjoyed long after I was gone.

Culpeper preserving battlefields and promoting tourism. Savannah. Book, way to bless our community with tourism dollars. Everybody thought I was crazy. But I walked 5 miles a day and that was my time with God. I did several years of research and the story formed in my mind. Write it and they will come. 18 months. "hormonal imbalance. No qualifications. Math major, never written anything, couldn't find a real writer, huge project. History had to be accurate, would be a story of love and center around a young lady who saw it all, and the characters would be inspiring Christians. Mostly real people.

Write it and they will come. Had to learn to use computer.

Didn't know if anyone would ever read it. Was afraid to let anyone read it because I would give up. God always sends the right person at the right time. Sherall Dementi.

Didn't know how to publish but God intervened by sending right people.

Martha Mothersead, Aruna. Big financial investment, needed to sell 500 books myself. Leap of faith. Sold first 500 in 3 weeks. Off and running.

I'm a total introvert so God had to teach me how to become a speaker. Started conducting tours, over 4500 have come. Got good reviews, men and women liking it equally. Met kinsmen of so many of the characters. Jeb Stuart IV hosted celebration of 5000 sold, thanked God that I persevered and didn't give up. I've made so many wonderful friendships with my readers – hundreds upon hundreds, been blessed.

When and how did we get connected?

Chance encounter in grocery store. Invited me to do TV interview on Life of Blessing Feb. 2005. First time I had shared my faith walk in the writing of the book. Church group prayed for me, an exhilarating experience.

Read about Pray Culpeper in paper, praying for MTC to be made into a movie. Decided I should go. Tremendous spiritual growth. Truly began to understand the power of prayer. Unity in our community. Helped me to see the big picture. Pray Culpeper changed my life and drew me into a more intimate relationship with Christ. Believing that God is honored when we pray big prayers, prayers that only He can accomplish, and the glory is His.

Tell us about the MTC movie project.

Met Rick Heeren June 2005.

Early August God told me to go to the 700 Club. Left prayer request. Wrote for quote. Prayed for 5 weeks. Said the letter had been misplaced.

Late August Rick came back and I gave him a book. He had received a word from a pastor in Argentina that he would make a successful movie. Rick thought this must be it.

Rick's perspective of reconciliation.

Feb. 2006 Heerens came to Culpeper.

Trip to NY April 2006. Met Bob. Prophecies, read book, spiritual father, top intercessor, healing the heart of America.

Clearly hearing God's voice. Josh Orndorff. Night- God said he wanted Josh to go to Argentina. Got \$1000 and Josh had been praying at same time. He has organized TOP in Richmond and declared for ministry.

Then connected with Susie Crowell and went to LA.

Writing of screenplay stalled.

When did you start your weekly prayer calls?

July of 07

Began prayer calls in July of 07. We have all grown and been blessed as individuals and a team. Such a great gift from God and I felt unworthy but I was willing and so were the others. We now look forward to the prayer calls and consider it our hour of power. Bob encouraged me to write, "make my case". I have written most of screenplay. Randy and I both got the word convergence on the same day for 2008. [Ben Stewart, Rick's book MM.](#) [Rod Stone, George Escobar. God is blessing Christian film companies Sherwood, Advent.](#)

What is your impression of 2-way journaling?

2-way journaling shared with our prayer group, big impact and with my daughter and has opened our communication and relationship. Powerful, especially when you go back and read it.

The bigger the assignment the longer to preparation period. God's timing is always perfect. He speaks in many ways; scripture, through others, and through quiet time, dreams, but he always sends the right person who tells us just what we need to learn and hear. Be thankful for the valleys because they are followed by higher peaks.