



JOYCE DAVIDSON

Meet Joyce Davidson....

Joyce is full of God! She has faced extreme pain and overcome great trials, yet she gives so much and speaks only of God's faithfulness. This is her story...and it is not yet finished!

Joyce was born and raised in Eersterus. At the age of 42 she was a nurse and married with 5 children, but had been searching for something more. Sitting in the NG church at the funeral of a close friend, Joyce suddenly became aware of the strong presence of God. She phoned Telefriend and was led to accept Christ into her life, there was an immediate feeling of such joy. When a pastor later prayed with Joyce she felt as if a physical burden was lifted and from this point her life was changed – she gave up smoking immediately, was baptised and joined a cell group. It was a dramatic conversion!

Over the next few years Joyce faced the hardships of being a single mother when her husband left, and then her teenage daughter fell pregnant. What carried her at these times was the support of the cell group and friends. From this grew a desire to minister to divorced people, as well as greater compassion for her patients who Joyce started praying with.

Eventually Joyce was able to open a primary health care clinic in Eerstrus where she counselled many pregnant teenagers. She received training to manage crisis pregnancy situations through Neobirth (see the interview with Riekie van der Berg). Finance for the clinic was provided amazingly by a Muslim man! Joyce visited the schools in the area where she spoke about alternatives to abortion and challenged young men to take responsibility for their pregnant girlfriends, there were many times when she was able to speak to parents and bring reconciliation in families. From these school visits many boys started to bring their girlfriends to the clinic and receive advice and prayer.

Prayer meetings and bible studies were started in the community. Over the next 5 years the clinic expanded to treat diabetes, hypertension, provide immunisations and family planning advice. Event days were held where the community was invited to a hall for days such as mothers' day where there was singing and dancing as well as prayer for women for physical and emotional healing. The effects of the work at the clinic were seen all over Eerstrus.

Then in 2006 Joyce's 24 year old son was killed in a hijacking, Joyce was devastated. At the funeral there was an alter call when many people accepted Christ as their saviour. What a testimony that a funeral can be the start of much healing and forgiveness! Joyce started a monthly meeting for mothers who had lost children, this grew to include people who had experienced all kinds of grief.

In 2008 a friend paid for Joyce to visit their family in America, here she gave her testimony in some churches and at youth camps. On her return Joyce was led to leave the clinic and enter a new season in her life. Now she is involved with the Hope Centre, facilitating the Divorce Care course and counselling on the Hope Line. Joyce still works as a nurse in an ICU unit where there is the opportunity to pray for patients, she is also a DJ on Impact Radio on Sunday afternoons.

What we can learn from Joyce:

- * Your pain can become your ministry
- * Look for opportunities around you to minister and meet a need
- * Listen to God's voice and be obedient
- * FORGIVE!