

What I learned through the pain of letting go

The development and approval of this non-profit organization was not an easy process, especially for a lone wolf, non-business management woman like myself. I had no experience, no staff, and only the funds collected from the people who'd attended my initial sermon. One thing I did have was confidence that the Lord had lead me on this path and therefore, it was God who would show me how to get it done. Through networking and the grace of God's promise, I found an accountant who walked me through every step of the process. Even the approval process was fast as lightening and smooth as silk. My paperwork was approved in about three months, a process that normally took anywhere from six months to several years. That was all the confirmation I needed to rest easy in the knowledge the Lord had His hands on me and my dreams.

I was running the entire company with a couple of officers, with me being the Chairman/Treasurer and a co-chairman/Secretary, and a Chaplain---all volunteers, none-paid positions. I learned how to do all the bookkeeping for non-profit company, keep all papers in order for donations and expenditures. I prepared annual reports and filled taxes every year and conducted quarterly, required business meetings.

Having to run the company almost singlehandedly, was very difficult, but realizing that I needed to let it go was even harder. I was torn and brokenhearted because I knew without a doubt, that God birth this outreach ministry as a non-profit organization and that His hand had been in it every step of the way. I went through guilt trips about what did I do wrong and why wasn't it producing everything it was designed to produce. Nevertheless, I also knew that I couldn't stay in a place of "guilt-trippin'." I had to get beyond this and be about

getting done what I did have control over. My story was not yet finished, so I moved on. There was even things I learned in closing out this non-profit organization that I would never have been exposed to if it had never existed. Now knowing that *The Spirit of Praise Liturgical Outreach* no longer existed, I also realized that God could resurrect it anytime He chose to.

I'm tremendously thankful for all of those experiences, but more so because the Lord never let the vision of writing those storybooks die. There, still in front of me, where the names of every storybook:

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| 1. Anxious Arlene | 14. Noisy Nelly |
| 2. Busy Benny | 15. Orphaned Ophelia |
| 3. Catty Carla | 16. Pudgy Pete |
| 4. Doubtful Denise | 17. Quarrelsome Quaniqua |
| 5. Excited Ernesto | 18. Reckless Ricardo |
| 6. Fearless Freddie | 19. Shy Stanley |
| 7. Graceful Gregory | 20. Tearful Tanya |
| 8. Hopeful Henry | 21. Ungrateful Ursula |
| 9. Itchy Irvin | 22. Valiant Vivica |
| 10. Jumping Josey | 23. Worrying Winston |
| 11. Kissing Kirkland | 24. X-Con Xavier |
| 12. Lonely Lucilia | 25. Yearning Yolanda |
| 13. Muddy Maria | 26. Zealous Zeporah |

Once I realized that I needed to go forth and now write each actual story, and that the stories now had a fresh purpose, that's where the fun really began. Come back to my blog and see how each story unfolded. Little did I realize at the time, that that was the *easiest* part of this journey thus far.