



Lori Schumaker 

Encouraging Women to Meet the Challenges
of Life with the Hope of Christ

Why I Write

I love to write, speak, coach, and see people walking in freedom and joy. My heart aches when I see untapped potential. The kind meant to do great things, but for one reason or another, buried beneath things like fear, shame, and insecurity. You see, I lived that way for far too long. I saw myself as the reflection of my mistakes – my brokenness – and the labels of the world. It was a long time before I finally saw myself in the reflection of my Savior.

I spent many years second-guessing my thoughts, abilities, and dreams.

But God ...

He did His thing. You know, the set the captives free, redeem, and make new? (I use did lightly because I'm definitely a work in progress!) He has been my rock through numerous bottom-of-the-pit experiences. He pulled me through each one and shaped my heart, my strength, my courage, my hope – and most of all my faith. Now it is time for me to bless Him by my faithfulness and obedience.

How I Fill My Days

Now I'm a wife and mama to three beautiful children. But, before becoming a full-time stay-at-home-mom, I was a teacher both in the elementary classroom and at the community college level. My MA was in Bilingual and Multicultural Education, so I was given the amazing opportunity to teach English to second language learning children and adults. I loved meeting people from around the world and I relished the blessings from so many of these children, families, and individuals.

These days I don't find myself teaching in any classrooms. Rather, my sweet kiddos keep me in a full-time state of chaos! My boys are avid athletes and have this awe-inspiring gift and passion for basketball. They play competitively which means they play it ALL.THE.TIME.

My daughter came home to us from Bulgaria a little over six years ago. She was almost five years old when she came home after having spent her life in a Bulgarian

orphanage. Even though her beginnings were filled with trauma, neglect, and malnutrition, she is a beautiful little girl with spunk and tenacity like no other! Upon arrival home, we realized she had a myriad of physical and emotional issues that would need specialized care. Day-to-day, we work with our many specialists to bring healing and hope to our little one. I believe God will someday work through all of these doctors and in His time, make our sweet pea emotionally whole again.

I'm crazy thankful for the Church family God has given me and the opportunities to serve in such a variety of ways. Prayer, leadership, adoption/foster care, and Women's and Children's Ministry.

My Hope for this Ministry

A long time ago, I prayed that God would break my heart for what breaks His. Every direction I turn, I see the brokenness. It's in the great big things of life, but it is also in the more subtle things. Each of us has encountered brokenness. Big gaping holes that despite all efforts to fill them back up with the things of this world, remain empty. Not everyone, though, has found the Healer – the Hope to this brokenness. I've experienced this great Healer in my life and in many lives around me. His name is Jesus. My hope is that He will work through my experiences and writing to bring healing to others.

“I waited patiently for the Lord to help me,
and he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the pit of despair,
out of the mud and the mire.
He set my feet on solid ground
and steadied me as I walked along.
He has given me a new song to sing,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see what he has done and be amazed.
They will put their trust in the Lord.”

Psalm 40:1-3

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