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## INTRODUCTION

I want to start by saying I am not highly educated; I am not a theologian, and I don't even know my Bible as well as I should. What I am writing is my life story. It is about my experiences and my opinions. It is not to intentionally hurt anyone but to show you that regardless of what you go through in life, you can always have hope. I am an ordinary person glorifying God with my life. He saved me and changed me, I am a work in progress, as I believe we all are.

This is how I came to tell the world about my life and all my secrets.

In May 2010 I was woken during the night with a strong desire to write my life history, I could feel the Holy Spirit telling me I would write a book. I argued so much that I am not a writer.

“Lord please ask someone else. I do not want everyone to know my deep dark secrets.”

I spent a long time refusing to acknowledge this idea, as there was no way I was sharing my secrets with strangers and besides, as I said, “I am not a writer.”

I have no theological training. I don’t even know my Bible as well as most, but I kept hearing: “You type, and I will talk.”

I saw the title of my book and started thinking, *Okay maybe I should do this.*

Jesus kept saying to me that my life would glorify Him. He said, “We are calling the book *Finding Jesus.*”

I then kept seeing things about ordinary people. Constantly, I saw this and that’s when I realised my book was to be called *Ordinary People Finding Jesus*. I prayed a lot and started typing and was shocked at all the things I had blocked from my memory that just poured back into me. Waking during the night I would remember things and started sleeping with a pen and paper next to my bed. I was involved with a church in Cambridge, East London, South Africa and one day I received a call asking me to make a plate of food for a man who had passed away from my church for his funeral. I had been working in my garden and walked around the corner to drop off the plate of food at the church. As I was walking, I had a strong urge to attend the funeral service. I started laughing convinced I had gone mad as I did not know this man. I snuck into the back of the church and the moment the minister started speaking I knew without a

doubt that Jesus wanted me to hear the opening Bible verse as He wanted it on the front cover of my book. Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

I went home and started typing with a vengeance. After about six months doubt started, and I allowed the evil one to convince me this was not of God but me, I immediately stopped typing and never touched it again until 2015. The urge to type again was so strong I just had to type.

When I was ready, I started putting feelers out for a publisher. Once again I said, "Okay Papa if this is to Glorify You then the first publisher I send this manuscript to must accept it or I will know it's of me."

I emailed it and within an hour I was contacted to publish my book. Doubt slowly started to diminish. I wanted to add a poem to my book, but my publisher said that I needed to contact the lady who had written the poem for permission and the chances of her agreeing were very slim. Yip, you got it. Within a day I heard back from her that she would be honoured for me to share her poem. You will find it further in the book. My book came out in October 2015, and I was a five-star holder on Amazon for almost two years. I did receive negative responses and dealt with them remarkably well considering that I am sensitive. Overall, I received masses of replies for my book thanking me for sharing my life story as it helped so many people. Not me but all Jesus. I did not want to do this and only did it out of faithfulness. Not long after my book was released the Holy Spirit started

telling me I was going to give inspirational talks to people looking for hope in their lives. I thought this would mean talking in churches, it never entered my mind it would be through social media. I want to clarify something once again in the beginning, I am not a theologian, and I don't know my Bible as well as I should. I am an ordinary woman trying to glorify my Yahweh. I try hard to be obedient but fail constantly. All I can do is keep trying to do the will of God.

I have been asked many times what makes my life special or any different to the next person's. The only answer I have is that it is no different or special to your life story. You may have gone through a harder walk than me, but this is my story, to try and help others. To fill others with hope that regardless of their walks in life they should never give up.

In 2017 the Holy Spirit said to me one morning whilst I was out running that I was going to write a sequel. I laughed and said, "Papa I don't have enough life for a second book." He also gave me my second verse for the cover of my new book: Psalm 37:4, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."

I should know never to argue or doubt my creator as here I am busy with the continued version of the book. It has taken me from 2017 to 2024. In 2023 my publisher contacted me to say that he had not recovered from COVID-19 and had decided to close his publishing firm. I was devastated for him and then remembered Jesus telling me in 2017 that I would rewrite my book. It took me another year until the desire returned to start again. You may ask

why. I wanted my book published in my home country, South Africa. Other than this I have no idea where Papa is going to take this, except that I have learnt there are no coincidences but only Godly incidences. Watch this space.

This is me, an ordinary woman, being obedient and trying to show you that in Jesus there is hope...

This is my life. I don't believe you are reading this by accident. Jesus is going to talk to you through my life.

I have changed certain names to protect people. Nothing in this book is to intentionally hurt anyone. It is to show you that regardless of how tough your life is when you trust Jesus and fully trust Him, He will work for your good. He has not promised us an easy life but through His peace and joy, we can do and overcome anything.

It was suggested to me by the editor of the first publication that I should change the title of the book. How could I do this? It was Jesus Himself who had given me the title. The editor said that this was not an ordinary life. I live in the real world, with real problems.

I find it fascinating that I had no desire to write anything until May 2024. I woke one morning with an urge to start writing again. I don't know God's plans, but I have learnt to trust when He tells me to get going. When you get a deep hunger in the pit of your tummy that won't go away then know the Holy Spirit is prompting and pushing you to move.