

Escapades of Grace depicts the journey of a woman who overcomes the harsh realities of poverty, addiction and prostitution to become a street preacher. Her story invites others to turn to God and be healed and free from past traumas.

Escapades of Grace

By Dr Jerry W. Hulse

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ESCAPADES *OF GRACE*

Foreword by W. V. Grant

DR. JERRY W. HULSE

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CHAPTER 1

FINDING FAITH ON FORGOTTEN STREETS

Rose was raised in a nurturing and supportive household, where love and understanding flourished. Her parents, both deeply spiritual individuals, instilled in her the belief that God embodies forgiveness and compassion. They often shared stories from their faith, highlighting the importance of kindness and empathy towards others. Through their guidance, she learned to view the world through a lens of grace and mercy, nurturing her sense of compassion as she grew.

However, even though her father had high expectations of her, he often criticized her choices, dismissed her efforts and condemned her lifestyle. His harsh words echoed in her mind, leading her to feel as though she was destined for hell. One fateful day, unable to bear the weight of his judgment any longer, she decided to confront her controlling father. With a trembling voice she revealed the depth of her pain, stating that she felt as if she was already living in hell due to his constant belittlement of her life.

This act of defiance marked a significant turning point in her life. It was a moment that signaled her desire for independence, but it also opened the door to more destructive habits. Feeling overwhelmed by the emotional turmoil that followed, she soon turned to alcohol as a means of escape. In her pursuit of relief, she found herself relying on the bottle more frequently, believing it could numb her pain and provide a temporary relief from her struggles.

Eventually, her boyfriend, who had stood by her side for a time, could no longer endure the repercussions of her drinking problem. With

a heavy heart, he informed her that he could not, with a good conscience, continue their relationship if she didn't seek help.

At that time, she wasn't ready to get help. So, they broke up, which led her to find solace in mixing pills along with the alcohol. Concerned for her well-being, her father approached her one afternoon. With a heavy heart, he said, "I can no longer help you, but God can." His words struck a chord within her, resonating with both despair and a glimmer of hope. Feeling the weight of her situation, she made the brave decision to admit herself to a rehabilitation unit for treatment.

At just seventeen years old, she struggled to accept the harsh reality of her circumstances, especially when her doctor labeled her with a severe alcohol and drug use disorder. The diagnosis was overwhelming, provoking a whirlwind of emotions that left her feeling lost and alone. In the months that followed her treatment, her boyfriend was willing to take her back, so she moved in with him. She hoped to strengthen their relationship.

Feeling she had made the right decision, she focused her energy on her education. Her hard work and determination soon paid off. She graduated at the top of her class, a feat that filled her with pride and a sense of accomplishment. She secured a well-paying job at a local mill, beginning a new chapter in her life. Through perseverance and determination, she transformed her struggles into a motivating force, proving she could overcome the most challenging obstacles.

However, just when she thought everything was going her way, she discovered her boyfriend had betrayed her trust, and she also found out she was pregnant. As messed up as she was, she did realize that having an abortion was not the answer. But the news of her baby and her boyfriend not being honest, shattered her emotions again, leaving her feeling vulnerable and lost. In her pain, she returned to what she

thought had brought her a way of escape like before—through alcohol, taking prescription pills, smoking marijuana, and even experimenting with LSD, which is a mind-altering drug.

One fateful day, while under the influence of drugs, Rose was pulled over by the police and charged with driving while impaired. The consequences of her actions were severe; her parents, deeply concerned for her well-being, made the difficult decision to have her committed to an institution for treatment. In the institution, they prayed fervently for her recovery, hoping for a miracle. Gradually, their prayers began to yield results, and she experienced a resurgence of clarity and healing that helped her untangle the chaos in her mind.

Just a year after her release, tragedy struck again when her father passed away unexpectedly. This loss weighed heavily on her, and she moved in with her mother to provide support to her during such a difficult time. Unfortunately, the grief took an extreme negative toll on her mother, who sank into a deep depression. And to make matters even worse, her mom took a fatal overdose of pills. This left Rose to grapple with yet another profound loss. Experiencing the loss of both of her parents within a single year deeply affected her emotional and mental well-being. The intense grief she felt left her emotional status unstable—she felt adrift, as if she were navigating a vast ocean without direction.

Now, this overwhelming sense of isolation made it difficult for her to connect with others. In order to cope with her losses, she threw herself into her work, immersing herself in projects and tasks as a way to escape her sorrow and find some kind of peace. Although, all it did was allow her to avoid confronting the depth of her loss.

Amid her struggles, the one thing that brought her hope and joy was her son. From the moment he had arrived, he became the center of

her universe, filling the void left by her parents' passing. However, tragedy struck when her son fell gravely ill and passed away, leaving her in utter despair.

During this time, her grandparents, who had always provided strength and guidance, came to see her. With an uncontrollable deep compassion in their eyes, they delivered a message that would resonate deeply within her heart. "If she ever hoped to see her son again, she would need to turn her life around." The devastating loss of her child felt like having her heart ripped out, and although it was a challenging step, she decided to follow their advice. She picked up her Bible to find some comfort and understanding. She began visiting different churches, searching for people who could provide her with the support she desperately needed.

In her quest for peace, she often retreated to the sanctuary of her closet, where she could isolate herself and plead with God to reveal His presence in her life and to offer her the peace she so profoundly craved. Each prayer was a small step toward healing as she sought to navigate the sorrow that had consumed her.

Rose often felt a void during church meetings, leaving with the same sense of emptiness she had when she arrived. During one of these moments of reflection, her grandmother introduced her to a church lady, a warm and welcoming soul who took her under her wing. This lady became a guiding light in her spiritual journey, offering her encouragement and support as she sought a place that resonated with her faith.

After attending a service at this new church, Rose experienced a profound transformation. She felt a liberating sense of joy for the first time as she began to praise God. As she lifted her voice in worship, she sensed a remarkable shift in the atmosphere around her. A warm,

indescribable sensation enveloped her, igniting something deep within her soul. It was unlike anything she had experienced before, and to her astonishment, she began to speak in languages she had never learned.

Sometime later, she discovered that she had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This experience profoundly transformed her faith, filling her heart with an overwhelming sense of peace and purpose. This profound experience inspired her to disconnect her television, freeing herself from outside distractions to focus on her spiritual growth. She took this time to study her Bible, poring over its pages to uncover its timeless wisdom. She discovered that each scripture resonated deeply with her, causing her to desire more of an intimate relationship with the Lord.

During this time, Rose consciously decided to refrain from dating, believing that focusing on her inner healing was essential to moving forward from her past relationships and experiences. She engaged in various self-reflective practices, attended workshops, and sought out new interests that enriched her understanding of herself and her values. However, a deep sense of loneliness enveloped her as the Thanksgiving holiday approached. The festive atmosphere of the holiday, filled with family gatherings and joyful companionship, heightened her feelings of isolation.

Longing for a connection and the warmth of friendship, Rose thought about an African American friend she had once dated. She decided to reach out to him. She wondered how others would perceive their meeting and whether the societal context would affect their renewed connection. She felt a spark of hope at the prospect of rekindling their friendship and the possibility of sharing Thanksgiving dinner with him.

Remembering the deep spiritual connection they had shared in the past, she invited him to church. Within a few weeks, their relationship flourished, filled with laughter, shared dreams, and fond moments. Their hearts intertwined, and they made the exhilarating decision to marry. Each passing day felt like a new adventure, as they eagerly anticipated the life they would build side by side. Wishing to grow their family, they visited medical professionals who gave them the disappointing news that they would not be able to have children. In response to this challenge, they turned to their faith, fervently praying for a miracle. Through their prayers and dedication, God opened her womb, and they joyfully welcomed a beautiful daughter. A year later, their family grew even more as they celebrated the arrival of a son.

The couple faced increasingly significant challenges in their relationship as the shadows of her troubled past began to resurface over time. It was as if a dam had broken, unleashing a flood of memories she thought were long buried. As these recollections surged through her mind, she felt a heavy weight settle on her shoulders, wrapping around her like a shroud and leaving her exposed and vulnerable. The once impenetrable facade she had carefully constructed now began to crack, revealing the chaos and turmoil she had fought so hard to conceal.

This emotional upheaval plunged her into a relentless cycle of self-doubt, and it was not long before she found herself questioning her worthiness of love and the very foundation of their relationship. With each intrusive thought, she replayed fragments of their shared past, happy moments intertwined with painful memories, examining each one for signs that could validate her deep-seated fears about being unworthy. This mindset threatened to consume her, creating a rift between her and her partner that seemed to widen with each passing day.

CHAPTER 2

LIFE BEYOND THE STREETS

With all of the unsettledness between her husband and her, Rose was disappointed that the church wouldn't be more actively involved. Her view of the church began to change, and she saw it as nothing more than a charade. She had sought solace and support within its walls, but to her, the church had failed to provide her with any meaningful comfort, especially during her darkest moments of despair. Her bitterness and resentment toward others began to manifest in increasingly harsh ways.

In her mind, Rose felt like a spectator in a game she couldn't comprehend; yet, she was unwilling to confront her vulnerabilities. When her husband expressed concerns about her spiraling downward behavior, warning her that she was on a path that could lead to a similar fate as her past had dictated, she confidently dismissed his cautionary words. "It will never happen to me again," she asserted, firmly convinced of her ability to overcome her addictions.

However, the reality of her addictions began to creep into her life, and before long, she found herself once again grappling with intense cravings for crack cocaine. Shortly after enduring the emotional turmoil of a troubled marriage, she ultimately surrendered to the temptation. What began as a fleeting indulgence swiftly evolved into a full-blown addiction, and in a matter of days, crack became her drug of choice again. Now her husband wanted nothing to do with her and kicked her out. This led her to homelessness. Her once-stable life crumbled, forcing her to navigate the harsh realities of living on the streets. This unfortunate lifestyle lasted for seven years.

Her life became a constant battle that often put her in a difficult place. She frequently scoured urban landscapes for water to wash herself and rummaged through alleyways and dumpsters in search of food. She often moved from one location to another at all hours, day and night. The constant search for safety made her feel vulnerable and desperate, causing her to often seek refuge in the nearby woods. It was here that the dense trees would offer her a brief and fragile shield from the harsh elements and the dangers. Adding to her problems, her addiction had tightened its grip on her life, causing her to do things she hated, but she had to survive.

Drugs became a temporary sanctuary, offering her fleeting moments of relief from the emotional turmoil and chaos of her past. Her constant struggles with addiction deepened more and more, and the once-vibrant relationships she shared with friends and family began to diminish as she gave in to temptation. The laughter of friends, the warmth of family bonds, and the sense of belonging within her community faded into distant memories, leaving her feeling lost and alone. Memories of laughter, dreams, and belonging seemed like distant echoes, overshadowed by the harsh realities of her current existence. Every decision and moment felt like a pivotal turning point in her quest for redemption and healing.

Rose recognized that freeing herself from the grips of substance abuse was crucial if she wanted to rebuild her life and find peace. It was during this time that she became involved in a devastating accident with an 18-wheeler. The impact was beyond horrible and could have easily claimed her life, but she was alive. The accident became a turning point in her life. She knew she had to have a higher purpose and calling to have survived this accident. This stirred thoughts within her that she had felt since childhood.

Days following the accident, she underwent intense physical and emotional pain. In her desperation to escape the constant suffering, she reached out to her caseworkers, urgently requesting permission to use drugs again, believing that the substances might offer her a brief escape from the pain. Her caseworkers remained steadfast throughout the grueling seven-year process, visiting her regularly and providing essential support.

The case workers took the time to understand her struggles and provided a listening ear, offering encouragement and guidance. Their unwavering commitment to her well-being became her lifeline, reminding her she was not alone. She longed to reclaim the vibrant person she once was, full of dreams, laughter, and hope, before her life was overshadowed by the grip of drugs and the hardships that came with homelessness. With each passing moment, she grappled with memories of better days, desperately seeking a way to break free from the chains that bound her and rediscover her true self. Recognizing the severity of her situation, her former caseworker reached out to her, aiming to reconnect and guide her toward accepting the harsh truth regarding her addiction.

It was not long before the weight of her struggles became too overwhelming to ignore. She had endured a failed marriage, and she now faced the daunting reality of trying to reclaim her mind and spirit from the tangled web of addiction that had trapped her. She understood that breaking free from the dangerous clutches of substance abuse was essential if she hoped to rebuild her life and find peace. However, during her hospital stays, her old friends would sneak in to see her, bringing illicit substances to her, which she gladly indulged.

Once she was discharged from the hospital, she returned to her old ways and resumed her life on the streets. As she drifted further away

from connection and support, not even her caseworkers knew where she was or what she was doing. After driving around for a while, she decided to return home. On her way home, her car ran out of gas, forcing her to walk the remainder of the distance. This gave her time to reflect on her thoughts, emotions, and the many challenges ahead. As she entered the front door, her fairly new boyfriend, who typically greeted her with warmth and affection, was missing. The house felt empty, and she sensed that something was wrong.

After a little while, the door swung open, and her boyfriend walked in. His face was lit up with a broad smile that radiated joy as if he had just discovered a hidden treasure. She immediately took a deep breath and informed him about the car situation, explaining that it had run out of gas and was now stranded in the street, a predicament she was sure he would find inconvenient. Still grinning, her boyfriend waved off her concern and returned to retrieve the car left beside the road.

Once they were settled, her curiosity got the better of her, and she asked him what had caused such an unexpected wave of happiness. To her surprise, he shared that he had recently heard a message about Noah building an ark. The message inspired him so much that he decided to stroll through the nearby park to reflect on its meanings. Intrigued, yet skeptical, she playfully asked him if he was considering embarking on a project to build an ark. Rose began to entertain thoughts, wondering if her boyfriend had found Jesus. As these thoughts swirled in her mind, she couldn't shake the guilt and shame that began to surface. Her heart was heavy as she acknowledged that she had allowed crack cocaine to fill the void that once belonged to God.

Memories of the joy and peace that faith had brought into her life came rushing back, and amid her turmoil, she felt a powerful conviction wash over her. It came as a gentle whisper, a small voice resonating deep within her spirit. Recognizing this voice as that of the Holy Spirit, she was struck by a wave of regret and anxiety. Suddenly, the weight of her choices felt more pressing than ever.

Rose was shaken up when she dreamed of finding herself at a crossroads where one path sharply turned to the right, while the other meandered off to the left. This dream prompted her to start thinking about the choices she had made in life. With her heart racing, she picked up the phone and called her physician, seeking guidance and support for her troubling situation. The physician arranged for a caseworker to visit her at her home and assured her that help was available and that she should hang on.

As the day of the caseworker's visit approached, unexpected excitement filled the air. The thought of receiving help sparked a flicker of hope in her heart. It did not take long for her resolution to be tested, for when she stepped outside, she was taken back to see both her caseworker and a car waiting to take her to the crack house parked right in front of her home.

The sight of the two vehicles parked side by side brought back a flashback of her earlier dream about standing at the crossroads. In that trying moment, she felt God's powerful reminder about the crucial choices she needed to confront and the path she wanted to pursue. It was as if a light had illuminated the options before her, making her aware of the significance of taking action.

Anxiety swept over her as memories from her childhood returned, bringing with them the voices of her parents' heartfelt words: "Daughter, we cannot help you, but God can if you take the first step

to help yourself.” These words, filled with love and wisdom, had always inspired her, but now they resonated with a sense of urgency, prompting her to recognize her struggles and her need for assistance.

Rose admitted herself into the hospital, and upon her arrival, the medical staff promptly administered three powerful injections that would render her unconscious for the next three days. As she drifted into a deep sleep, the weight of her struggles began to lift and float away. When she finally awakened, she felt an intense urge to explore her surroundings. As if being guided by an unseen force, she entered a meeting room with other patients battling their demons. There, she spotted a man who radiated calmness and a sense of purpose.

The man approached her, explaining that he had been sent to help her on her journey toward healing. His presence offered her hope, and she felt an instant connection as if their paths were meant to cross at that moment in her life. They took a short walk, and along the way, he stopped to open a Bible and read from the eighth chapter of the book of Romans. As the man read the scriptures, she began to tremble, especially when he read the sixth through eighth verses, which read, “To be carnally minded is death, but spiritually minded is life and peace.” After a few days, the hospital discharged her. She really felt joyful and had hope for her future.

However, this joy was short-lived. Shortly after arriving home, her desire and craving for drugs began to tug at her mind, and she gave in to it to satisfy her need. Still, she discovered that no matter how hard she tried to escape through substance abuse, she could no longer achieve the high she had achieved before. Fighting her inner motions, she attempted to find the man who had helped her during her hospital stay. He was known as Prophet Joe. He had read the Bible to her, comforted her in her darkest moments, and was willing to listen

attentively when she approached him for guidance. He had encouraged her to resist the allure of drugs and to focus on serving God.

Prophet Joe's wisdom had motivated her to reconsider God and the church. Rose decided to visit Prophet Joe, and she mentioned another man who had prayed with her. To her surprise, Prophet Joe revealed that he knew the man and said he lived nearby. They decided to go to the man's house to seek his guidance and to ask for prayer. After leaving the man's house, Rose experienced a profound moment with God, and a beautiful, unknown language began to flow effortlessly from her soul.

In the days that followed, she became fascinated by the story of Legion in her Bible. She was excited as she read about the people who encountered this man after he had been freed from demonic possession. She felt some hope when she read the part that declared, "Legion was fully clothed and in his right mind, sitting peacefully at the feet of Jesus" (Matthew 8:28-34; Luke 8:26).

Later, when the drug dealers saw her, they noticed something different about her, including her boyfriend. She felt she was different and wanted to learn more about the God Who had changed her life. She felt led to ask Prophet Joe to come to her home for a church service. He said he enjoyed preaching for her, and she asked him to come every Saturday to preach a sermon in her home. Upon hearing this news, one of the visiting women asked if they could cook for the preacher, to which she replied, "I think you are on to something, and they always say that a way to a person's heart is to serve them some good food."

One Sunday, Rose spotted a high school friend sitting close to her during a Sunday service at one of these meetings. The two women had a tumultuous history; after a heated quarrel during high school, they hadn't exchanged a single word since that day.

As Prophet Joe delivered an inspiring sermon, the atmosphere in the room became charged with emotion, which prompted the long-lost friend to squeeze Rose's hand gently. This simple yet powerful gesture triggered a flood of emotions, and the two women found themselves in tears as they confronted their unresolved feelings and grievances.

The following week, Prophet Joe arranged for a special guest to visit Rose's home. She was taken back as the minister introduced himself as Paul, who was known as "The Trucker Evangelist." Rose later discovered he was renowned for his dynamic preaching style, which had made waves on radio and television stations throughout America.

When the trucker evangelist brought the Word inside her home, she and her boyfriend felt convicted and realized that, despite having separate bedrooms, they still lived together without marriage. She began to pray about how to fix this.

Unfortunately for Rose, feeling depressed was something she still battled with. The medical and other bills had become more than what she could handle, and she found herself extremely sick. So she checked herself back into the hospital. After she was settled into her room, she called Prophet Joe, who also informed the evangelist that she was suffering from depression. The evangelist informed Prophet Joe that he was on the road and could not take time off to visit her.

The evangelist asked Prophet Joe to give her some of the books he had sent him. His famous book, "18 Wheels And Jesus," was included in the books. Later, Rose called the evangelist and mentioned that when Prophet Joe gave her the books, she was skeptical because she only liked her Bible and a few other books. However, she said that

when she picked up the book, God smiled at her through its shiny cover. She said she felt a powerful connection to the stories in the book.

Later, she told others that the main character's struggles, dreams, and experiences closely mirrored her life. She had felt a jolt of surprise as she read about how God's powerful works were displayed through the character, prompting medical doctors to embrace the idea that prayer can change things. This deeply resonated within her spirit, and she confidently reassured herself, "If God can perform such incredible miracles through a trucker who has endured a grueling seven-year nervous condition filled with suffering and disappointment, then indeed, this same God can help me out of the nightmare that I have been living in.

Rose immersed herself in one of the other books and loved its captivating story, "Deliverance from the Road." The story features Ray, who arrives at the "76" truck stop along Interstate 20 in Georgia. As he pulls onto the certified truck scale, he eagerly anticipates the process, only to be informed by the fuel clerk that the scale's computer is currently out of order. This unexpected situation with the Cat Scale adds an element of uncertainty to his journey, yet it reflects the underlying theme of faith and reliance on God.

The story continues to describe how Ray parked his rig and told the clerk that he would be at the chapel until they figured out the source of the breakdown. The clerk had told him it was a rare occurrence and that she would wait a few minutes to try again. He continued to go to the chapel. The moment his foot touched the first step at the door of the trucker's chapel, he heard the voice of the HOLY GHOST say, "I want you to pray for someone to be delivered from demons of alcohol today." So Ray proceeded into the chapel with his heart and spirit

girded to battle. The Chaplain greeted him inside, and Ray declared the Word of the LORD that had been given to him.

The Chaplain then informed Ray that five other ministers were in the truck stop's restaurant working with a young man, who was facing a difficult situation, which had to do with alcohol. Then, the heavy chapel doors creaked open. A solemn procession of ministers entered, leading a young man who embodied the struggles of alcoholism, disheveled and emanating a strong odor that reflected his challenges.

The clergy members approached Ray, sharing that God had individually stirred their hearts, guiding them to this remote truck stop to offer help to this troubled soul. They informed Ray that the young man resisted their counsel, leaving them frustrated and helpless, despite their best efforts. These confused ministers turned to Ray, knowing he had a reputation of preaching and ministry, urging him to approach and work with the young man. Ray was more than agreeable. He made his way over to the young man, and with a firm yet compassionate tone, he proclaimed, "Young man! God has gone to great lengths to bring these dedicated men here today to help you.

Ray informed the young man that God had gone so far as to break a certified scale to ensure he would be here for this moment, and He had brought five area preachers just for him. Ray emphasized that God was deeply concerned about him, and yet he act like he didn't care. Frustrated Ray told the young man that he was wasting their time and causing God to be so upset that He couldn't even weigh him on a scale just for the sake of his soul.

Ray continued to urge the young man to respond to God's call and to bow to His authority. He warned him that there wouldn't be any water where he was headed, if he didn't. The young man was moved

by the Spirit, and finally broke down and asked Ray to pray for him. Ray took his hand, and the Holy Spirit manifested in him so strongly that he broke out in chills—goose bumps were visible on his arm. Ray sensed the presence of the demonic forces gripping the young man and said, “Devil, you heard him say with his spirit that he wants to be free! He wants God’s salvation, Who is offered through His Son, Jesus Christ.”

Ray then said, “Devil, I don’t think you want to argue with this!” This young man breathed a sigh of relief as he was delivered. The glow of God’s glory appeared on his face as he exclaimed, “Preacher, I feel clean!” Ray was so overcome with joy that he began to preach as he walked out of the chapel, down the steps, and into the parking area where the trucks were parked. When he finally came to himself, he checked at the fuel desk, and they informed him that the Cat Scale was now working.

The stories in the “18 Wheels and Jesus” book profoundly impacted Rose, inspiring her to share her testimony with anyone who was willing to listen. In a heartfelt call to the evangelist, Rose shared how God had led her to Jefferson Street, a street notorious for its high crimes and danger. She told him that behind her home was a street called Bankhead Street, where the United States Postal Service refused to deliver mail to its residents. It was on these very streets where Rose had struggled with addiction, using and selling drugs for seven long years. Now, she can walk these familiar streets where she once aimlessly wandered, but she does it with a sense of purpose.

The neighborhood where Rose lives has an unsettling resemblance to a war zone. The numerous houses that stand with their windows boarded up are a haunting reminder of the drive-by shootings that occurred all too frequently in the area. Each shuttered home tells a

silent story of violence, and the aftermath of these brutal incidents has left many residents grappling with injuries, some limping through the streets, forever marked by the senseless acts of aggression that shattered their lives.

Rose had one advantage: she was well-known among the wrong crowd, and her past was intertwined with many of the neighborhood's troubled souls. She believed God utilized the experiences shared in the "18 Wheels And Jesus" book to elevate her faith and empower her mission. Fueled by a profound and newfound determination to create hope and inspire meaningful change, she now dedicated herself to uplifting her community to spread hope and inspiration through the life-touching power of storytelling. After considering various titles, she ultimately selected the book "18 Wheels And Jesus" because it was rich with heartfelt stories that illustrated themes of redemption, resilience, and how to triumph over adversity.

Rose hoped that by sharing these stories, she could inspire others to recognize the possibility of them also having hope and being able to change. She believed that the stories in the book could ignite a spark of hope in those who read them. She carried dozens of copies of the evangelist's books, each carefully selected to reach out to those she may encounter. She believed that each book she handed out represented far more than just a series of pages bound together. It was a beacon of hope, a crucial tool for healing, and a heartfelt invitation for readers to envision a brighter future, one that would allow them to rise above the pervasive cycle of violence and despair that often engulfed their lives.

Rose loved to explain the significance of the stories in the books to anyone who would listen. She loved to explain how each story within the pages was a testament to being resilient and offering strength for those who put their trust in the Lord.

As she distributed the books, she envisioned a world being transformed by these powerful stories, where individuals who were grappling with their inner demons could find a voice of understanding and empathy. She pictured them turning the pages, feeling a deep sense of connection with the experiences of others.

Rose hoped the books would help hurting people recognize that they were not alone in their struggles, and that through shared experiences, they could begin to heal and find solace. She imagined having community gatherings where people could come together to share their thoughts and feelings, fostering a stronger sense of unity and support among one another.

Rose discovered that the “18 Wheels And Jesus” book emerged as a vital lifeline for many, allowing readers to reflect deeply on their struggles and hardships as they navigated through the complexities of life. Rose began to pray and believe that God would inspire the people in her city to confront their fears, openly share their challenges and triumphs, and recognize that some people suffer more than others. She came to believe that no one is beyond redemption and that everyone needs to know they are valuable in the eyes of God. Rose started praying and trusting for the Lord to use her to break down barriers, soften hardened hearts, and lead people to a place where they could write their own stories about the life-changing, transforming power of God’s amazing grace.

CHAPTER 3

HERE TODAY AND GONE TOMORROW

Rose's life seemed to be one that was filled with heartbreak. On top of all that she was going through, she received the devastating news over the phone that one of her closest friends, whom they called Jabbo, had been killed in a botched robbery in a nearby city. Jabbo had a warm and caring nature—when he was sober, he was genuinely one of the sweetest people anyone could ever meet. He often went out of his way to help others, even if it meant giving away his belongings to those in need.

However, like many others, Jabbo transformed into another person when he was under the influence of drugs. Despite his good-hearted nature, he admitted to committing armed robberies during these episodes, recalling terrifying moments when he held people at gunpoint. He often expressed confusion and remorse about his actions—being totally unable to understand the reasons behind his violent behavior. Rose struggled to understand her loving friend and why he would continue to allow himself to come under the influence of drugs, when his actions could threaten his own life.

There is no such thing as a timely death, but for some reason this really affected her. So, she began to look through her phone for news releases about her friend's death, and the headlines quickly caught her attention. "Robbery in broad daylight goes sour, leaving one dead." The story stated that a man, who fit Jabbo's description, had approached a man in a maroon, Dodge Ram truck that was pulling a trailer loaded with bricks. His intentions were to sell him some drugs. It went on to say that after he had sold him the drugs, Jabbo discovered

the man had a gun, so he stole it from this guy's vehicle and instantly fled on foot.

After several hours had passed, Jabbo returned to the fuel stop, so high on drugs that he approached the same man he had stolen the gun from. He didn't remember him—not only that he had sold him drugs earlier, but had also stolen his gun. The man acted interested and allowed Jabbo to enter his truck. After Jabbo got in, he shot him with another gun he had hidden. Then he threw him out of his vehicle and quickly drove away from the fuel stop, physically running over Jabbo's body with the trailer he was pulling. Jabbo was now severed at the waist, and he was lying in a pool of blood.

The CCTV replay video from the fuel stop provided a vivid snapshot of a cheerful encounter between Jabbo and an unfamiliar stranger. In the footage, the two men laughed heartily and shared various tasty items from the deli bar, including sandwiches piled high with fresh ingredients and an assortment of snacks. Their relaxed demeanor and easy camaraderie made it clear that they were enjoying each other's company, wholly absorbed in their conversation and laughter, seemingly unaware of their bustling activity.

The lively atmosphere of the fuel stop, with its bright lights and the sounds of customers bustling in and out, added a captivating backdrop to their interaction. This setting suggested that there may have been more to their meeting than just a mere chance, a shared history or connection that piqued curiosity. Their lighthearted banter hinted at a bond that warranted further exploration. The story took a dramatic turn with the issuance of a nationwide bulletin that focused on the stranger and the vehicle he was driving, raising questions about the circumstances surrounding their meeting, and how a young life that is here today is gone tomorrow.

Rose was deeply devastated as she reflected on the tragic and untimely death of her friend. The news had shaken her to her core, evoking painful memories of her close calls with death. She grappled with the harsh reality that life is fleeting and uncertain. The story of her friend's passing, so sudden and at such a young age, clutched at her heart, painting a vivid picture of the fragility of life. It served as a stark reminder that we often take our time here for granted; one moment we can be surrounded by loved ones, and the next, everything can change instantly.

The weight of her thoughts lingered in her mind, igniting an intense sense of urgency to cherish every moment and appreciate the people in her life while she still had the chance. Rose reflected on the countless conversations and shared laughter with friends and family, realizing how easily time could slip away. Over and over again, the words of her parents echoed in her thoughts: "Rose, your time on Earth is limited, and one day you will face God to give an account of the life you lived." These thoughts stirred memories from her vacation Bible school days, where they had explored the meaning of life through the teachings of the Bible.

Her class had studied James 4:14, which states, "What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." The imagery of life as a fleeting mist resonated deeply within her, reminding her to embrace every moment and treasure the relationships that filled her days with joy and purpose. All of this must have awakened something within her, because now she was thinking of her deceased friend who left this world in such a frightening way. Just thinking about the life he lived, wondering how many times he rejected the Gospel and where he would spend eternity, pierced her heart even more.

Rose felt a deep sense of unease, recognizing that she had been wavering in her commitment to her faith. She reflected on her friend's troubling experience, understanding that it could just as easily have been her in that position. Memories flooded back of times spent with the wrong crowd, where the atmosphere was charged with reckless behavior and poor choices. In those moments, she found herself desperately praying, wishing for strength from the good Lord to help her remain conscious and alert, knowing that losing control could very well have cost her, even to the point of dying.

Many of Rose's friends were deeply shocked to learn about the tragic circumstances surrounding Jabbo's death. They were particularly horrified by how his battle with drug addiction had ultimately taken control of his life, leading him down a path of self-destruction. Jabbo's struggles with addiction were not a secret, but the extent of its impact on him came as a devastating realization. The news of his passing served as a stark reminder of the dangers of substance abuse, leaving a profound sense of loss and reflection among those who knew him.

The people on the street who surrounded her were like family, bound together by shared experiences and struggles. They frequently gathered at various corners, their laughter and conversation mingled with the sounds of the city. As they shared stories from their lives, some filled with joy, others marked by hardship, they offered each other words of encouragement and support. Amid their challenges, they would pool their small amounts of change, hoping to buy drugs that could provide a temporary escape from the relentless pain of their environment. Each high was a fleeting refuge that allowed them to forget the harsh realities of their existence, even if it was just for a little while.

As she thought about all of this, she was amazed at how they all had bought the lie that drugs were the answer, even if it was just temporary. So sad!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Jerry Hulse's journey to faith after enduring seven long years of depression began sometime in 1994. Since the late 1970s, he has worked as a diesel mechanic for major companies, and started driving the big rigs across the USA and parts of Canada sometime in 1987. In 1995, he entered the ministry as a trucker evangelist, using the CB radio call sign "The Guardian Angel."

Dr. Jerry often found himself in precarious situations, facing the dangers of operating in neighborhoods that had been negatively affected by violent gangs. Recognizable by his distinctive Indiana Jones hat, he committed himself to addressing the urgent needs of the people who were experiencing homelessness. Well-known for venturing into the most challenging and unsafe areas, he explored places like under bridges and into abandoned houses—many notorious for drug use. He became a prominent figure not only on the streets, but his ministry expanded into several radio stations, TV programs, and magazines. He has also been blessed to author more than eighteen books.

In March 2021, Dr. Jerry retired after 43 years in the trucking industry, and since March 2022, he has lived with his wife, Tin Tin, conducting powerful monthly revivals throughout the Philippines. He serves as the International Evangelist for Miracle Life Church International Ministry, which is a legacy ministry founded by the late A. A. Allen and sustained over the years under the Don Stewart Evangelistic Association. In this role, he leads and organizes impactful revivals that bring hope and healing to communities across the Philippines.

Dr. Jerry holds an honorary doctorate in Philosophy of Theology and is recognized as a Life Coach with Kingdom Ambassadors Global University. He is a Mental Health Advocate and Board-Certified Mental Health Coach through Life University and the American Association of Christian Counselors. He draws on his extensive experience in street ministry and a profound understanding of the Holy Scriptures to inspire and empower individuals to discover their potential for personal growth and meaningful transformation. His journey is a compelling account of resilience and strength in the face of adversity. His life story illustrates how the human spirit can triumph over even the most daunting challenges.

To reach Dr. Jerry, go to: <https://jerryhulseevangelist.de>



SPECIAL ACCLAMATIONS

I met Jerry W. Hulse in 1994 after singing a song I wrote about him in Illinois called “18 Wheels And Jesus.” This recording can be found on YouTube. One of Jerry’s friends was at that event and ran to call him about a singer writing a song about him. Jerry lived five miles from me in Tennessee, but I had to go to Illinois to get introduced to him. I heard about his ministry from an 18-Wheeler through a radio and TV personality, Bob Smallwood. Lately, in 2021, I have been out of work with nerve damage in my hand and arm. Jerry came by, ministered to me, and my hand regained mobility.

Singer/Songwriter/Recording Artist,
Minister Tony Malone

For several years, the books of evangelist Jerry have served as a profound source of inspiration and guidance for the viewers of the TV program “Pickin’ Time with Bob” on WLFG Living Faith TV in Abingdon, Virginia. The impact of Jerry’s books has been tremendous. We are proud to have Dr. Jerry as our friend.

Reverend Bob & Laurie Smallwood

I am writing this correspondence to endorse Evangelist Jerry W. Hulse as a Preacher and Author. Evangelist Jerry has been a guest on Jesus in the Morning, a radio talk show broadcast internationally every week.

The listener's response was excellent. I support Evangelist Jerry W. Hulse by sharing his anointed works as an Author and Evangelist."

Evangelist Barbara Pittman
Jesus in the Morning Radio Show & Talkshoe.com

"Jerry, thanks for praying for me at Health South in Kingsport, Tennessee, 21 years ago. You didn't know it, but I was at death's door, and JESUS CHRIST brought me back, and I'm still going. PRAISE HIS NAME." I just turned 70, and the latest doctor report was that I have the heart of an 18-year-old.

Tommy Browder
<https://thebrowders.com>

"Jerry Hulse prophesied over me years ago about how God would use me. It's happened and is happening! He has been an encouragement to me and my family. I believe he has a heart for God, His people, and God's ministry!"

Matthew Browder

Chaplain Jerry, we genuinely appreciate your friendship and support in distributing your books to the truckers who visit The Road Angel. The impact of your support can be seen in the lives of the truckers who

find solace and inspiration in your books during their long journeys.” Thank you!

Chaplain Mark Hewitt

+1 618 427 3737

associationofchristiantruckers@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern:

Our encounter with Evangelist Jerry Hulse in the middle of 2017 at a Don Stewart workshop in Phoenix, Arizona, was undeniably divine. The strength of Jerry’s anointing sparked our curiosity and led to a beautiful friendship. We consider it a blessing to have been asked to read and comment on some of his anointed books. Evangelist Jerry is truly an anointed man of God with the pen of a ready writer, guiding us into the importance and power of maintaining a close relationship with the Lord through a devoted life of consecrated prayer.

Pastor Calvin & Veronica Moore

Word of Fire Tabernacle Church

Los Angeles, California

It is important to recognize Brother Jerry W. Hulse, a person for whom we can be genuinely grateful to God. I have known him for about four years and have found him to be a man of strong faith who lives his life accordingly. If I had to choose someone to be on my team, I would undoubtedly select Brother Jerry Hulse.

Elder James Lockhart

Rhema Gospel Express

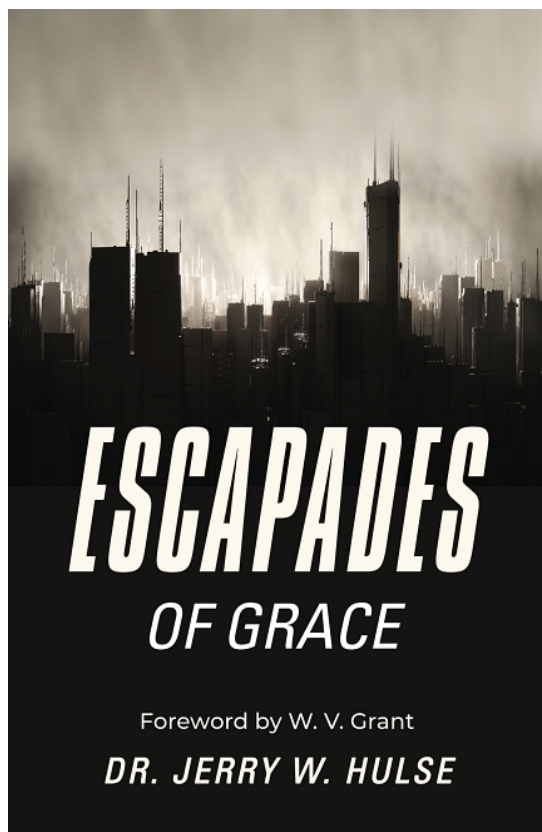
www.rhemagospelexpress.org

Dr. Jerry W. Hulse is recognized as the ordained International Evangelist representing Miracle Life Church International. MLCI is an International Ministry founded in the Philippines by the late A. A. Allen and Don Stewart. Since March 10, 2022, Dr. Jerry and his wife, TinTin, have traveled, conducting monthly revivals and crusades throughout the Philippines.

Bishop Filipe Ping Alba

I've been friends with Jerry Hulse for many years. I've known Jerry to be a devout man of God all those years. Whenever we see each other, our conversation will center on Jesus and what He has been showing Jerry recently. I've never known anyone who represents our Lord Jesus Christ better than Jerry Hulse. I'm happy to endorse Jerry as a true friend, minister, and man of God. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Minister Mark Crouch
Former Manager of Trinity Broadcasting Station
WCLJ-TV42 at Bloomington & Indianapolis



Escapades of Grace depicts the journey of a woman who overcomes the harsh realities of poverty, addiction and prostitution to become a street preacher. Her story invites others to turn to God and be healed and free from past traumas.

Escapades of Grace

By Dr Jerry W. Hulse

Order the book from the publisher Booklocker.com

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