

Stories of Healing

How God has worked in our Church Family

Week 3

Finding Healing After My Marriage Failed

Jaime Restreppo's Story

In the day of my distress I call on You, because You answer me.

Psalm 86.7

*For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
...
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

Psalm 51.3-4, 10-12

Shortly after his brother Carlos Restreppo was converted in a prison cell, Jaime Restreppo came to Christ at the age of sixteen in the year 1979. Through years of coming up in the growing churches of Christ in Colombia, Jaime eventually began serving in ministry in 1985. The Kettering Church of Christ (now Cornerstone) was the the first congregation to fully support him as a minister of the gospel.

Jaime has been a prolific leader in the church in Colombia. Jaime has helped to establish over seventy-five churches of Christ in Colombia. He has translated much of our English literature for Spanish-speaking churches. Many would describe him as a spiritual warrior and leader.

We learn from the scriptures though that even men who are near to God can be subjected to temptation and even fall to grievous sin. Stories like the tale of King David, who reigned as a mighty King of Israel and is referred to as a “man after God’s own heart,” in the Old and New Testament come to mind. (1 Samuel 13.14, Acts 13.22)

This identification for David as a man after God’s own heart persists before and after his abominable sin against Bathsheba and Uriah. David committed infidelity and then murder in order to attempt to hide his sin. How can such a person still be called faithful? One word—redemption. King David fell, but he didn’t stay down. His heart was broken by sin, and a good friend helped to call him into account and put the pieces back together.

Like King David, Jaime committed a fatal moral error in his marriage that changed the trajectory of his life as a man, as a disciple and as a minister. As a result he lost his family, he lost his ministry, his financial life and severely damaged his reputation. In this video, Jaime takes us through the intense feelings of guilt, pain and hopelessness that ensued.

He tells us how in 2018, Kettering invited him to live, to recover and serve in ministry. He speaks of how the relationships he experienced gave him a space to rebuild his life and reorient his priorities. Jaime has since been restored to faith and is re-entering the field of ministry slowly but surely. He is thankful for how God used the Cornerstone church to bless him, and longs to see them all again.

Applications and Takeaways

- **Don’t get caught in a snare.** Do your best to watch your step, and be careful not to plant your feet in a bear trap of sin. Don’t play around with it—run. *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4.7)*
- **Don’t let pride take hold.** Anyone can fall to sin. No one is immune to temptation. *“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man...” (1 Corinthians 10.13a)*
- **Don’t give up on yourself.** God always provides a way out. We are never ‘cornered.’ *“... God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10.13b)*
- **Don’t give up on other people.** Recognize the heart of the penitent and react accordingly. *“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.” (Galatians 6.1)*

1. What do you think of the story?

