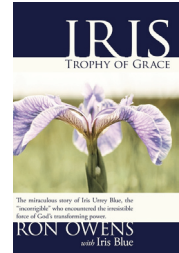


Ex-Con, Former Prostitute Transformed by Grace into a Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps Volunteer, Says New Book

ROCKWALL, TX – Many people immediately dismiss or look down on those who have different backgrounds or who have an unconventional history. A new book, *Iris: Trophy of Grace*, tells the story of one woman’s journey from living as a convicted criminal and prostitute to accepting the life-changing redemption and forgiveness of God’s grace.



The book, by Ron Owens with Iris Blue, is the story of a woman who “knelt down a tramp but stood up a lady”. Even though others had written her off as no-good ex-con, God had written her future and never stopped pursuing her.

Being reared by Christian parents in a middle-class home and attending church every Sunday didn’t ensure that Iris would follow the straight and narrow path. By the time she was 13 years old, her rebellion boiled over, and she ran away from home to live a life of drugs, prostitution, and revolving jail time. By age 26, 8 years in the Texas State Penitentiary in Huntsville, TX, still didn’t change her life of self-destruction. From numerous abortions to using heroin, to managing a topless bar, Iris turned from God’s calling again and again.

Iris’s parents loved her, but even her mother was ashamed and lied to friends about her daughter’s activities. But God knew Iris and never left her side. He followed her every move and worked to draw Iris back to the fulfilling life He wanted for her.

Ron takes readers through Iris’s rebellion and self-hatred as God transforms the “incorrigible” into a beautiful trophy of grace, who has since reached countless people, from top military personnel at NATO to German prostitutes.

In the book’s foreword, Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, GA, and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, wrote, “I believe this book will be one that will so inspire, encourage, and bless your heart in such a deep way that you will find yourself buying additional copies to pass along...what I’m trying to say is that my life has been radically influenced by Iris Blue, and as you read her story you’ll understand why.”

Ron Owens--born in Canada, son of missionary parents to Europe--has multifaceted ministries. These include teaching, preaching, and music ministry in North America and beyond. He has authored other books and articles and has composed, recorded, and had published many songs in collaboration with his wife, Patricia. The Owens have one son, Jeff, a daughter-in-law, Jessica, and two grandsons, Ethan and Evan.

Paperback copies (\$14.95, ISBN: 978-1-934749-91-3) are available through online bookstores such as Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com. CrossHouse Publishing also offers the book through 877-212-0933 and www.crosshousebooks.com.

Attention Editors: A photo or interview with the author is available by contacting publicist Jennifer Nelson at 877-212-0933 ext. 709 or jennifer@crosshousepublishing.org. Visit www.crosshousebooks.com to learn more about all the books we publish.

###



Jennifer Nelson, publicist
jennifer@crosshousepublishing.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Iris: Trophy of Grace
by Ron Owens with Iris Blue

1. What interested you about Iris’s story?
2. Iris grew up attending church every Sunday, even taking notes on the sermons. For Iris, rebellion started small. In the book, you explain that “sin never stands still.” What does that mean to you?
3. In *Iris: Trophy of Grace*, occasionally Christians were described as well-meaning believers who did more harm than good. Give a few examples of those situations. How did that affect Iris’ life? What should believers do instead?
4. While Iris was in the Texas State Penitentiary, a new warden began to show an interest in her. Explain how his unconventional love and acceptance made a huge difference in Iris’ life, as the book states.
5. In *Iris: Trophy of Grace*, you talked about how Iris would dream of being a lady and of having a normal life. How does she view her life as she looks back on it?
6. Even after Iris made a decision to have a relationship with Christ, she still didn’t believe she was capable of changing, but she was—and she did change. How was she able to change her life?
7. What did you learn from researching and writing *Iris: Trophy of Grace*?
8. How have you seen Iris and her story make a difference in other people’s lives?
9. You call Iris an “unconventional saint”. What makes you describe her in that way?
10. What do you hope the book will accomplish?

Paperback (\$14.95) copies of the book are available at Christian and secular bookstores throughout the country, as well as through online bookstores such as Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com. CrossHouse Publishing also offers the book through 877-212-0933 and www.crosshousebooks.com. ISBN: 978-1-934749-91-3.

Attention Editors: A photo or interview with the author is available by contacting Public Relations Specialist Jennifer Nelson at 877-212-0933 ext. 709 or jennifer@crosshousepublishing.org.

Visit www.crosshousebooks.com to learn more about all the books we publish.