

*Discipleship Unlimited***Linda Strom**

[Home](#) • [About Us](#) • [Karla Faye Tucker](#) • [HeartLove Place](#) • [Prison Ministry](#) • [Healing For Your Heart](#) • [Coming Events](#) • [News](#) • [Resources](#)

About Us

Discipleship Unlimited:

- [Discipleship Unlimited mission and ministries](#)

Dallas and Linda:

- [Linda Strom](#)
- [The early years](#)
- [Continued ministry impact](#)

The rest of the team:

- [Ministry team](#)
- ["Sister G"—the secret weapon](#)
- [Feature volunteers—Ron and Edith Miller](#)

Contact us

“Meet Linda Strom”

(Interview with [Nancy Grisham](#); taken from [Just Between Us](#) magazine, Fall 1997)

Meet Linda Strom . . . a woman whose life has gone from ashes to beauty. God is using her healing from a painful past to help others with hurting hearts.

Linda Strom grew up in western Pennsylvania near a beautiful lake and rolling hills. The old farmhouse she lived in looked peaceful.

However, peace was a rare commodity during the first 17 years of her life because her father was an out-of-control alcoholic. By the time Linda reached her teen years, life was filled with turmoil. She lived through the trauma of a father who was physically abusive to her and a mother who was verbally abusive. The one anchor in Linda's life was her grandmother. She loved Linda unconditionally and prayed daily for her family, often telling her, "God is always greater." She walked out faith in Linda's presence, and it gave her hope.

From the pain of a broken childhood, there emerged a woman God would use to reach the hearts of the hurting. The truths Linda shares have changed the lives of many different people from college students to inmates on Death Row. Her story is a message of hope ... "God is always greater."



Linda, how did your life begin to change?

In April of 1963, I married Dallas Strom. Unfortunately, I brought some ingredients into my marriage that had been modeled to me in my home. Dallas was a tease and seemed to enjoy watching me lose control. One day in anger I threw a pot of hot baked beans at Dallas and hit him. He walked out the door, and I was alone and desperate. As I was on my knees cleaning up the beans, I cried out, "God, if You're real, You've got to help me, because if You're not, I'm not going to make it in this world."

That evening, [Billy Graham](#) was on TV speaking about marriage. How I wanted to change! But Dr. Graham said that in ourselves we don't have the power to change. Then he read John 1:12:

"As many as received Him (Jesus), to them gave He

power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

I wondered, "Does Jesus really have the power to make me different?" He talked about God's love for me. I had longed for love, but I had closed my heart out of fear. That night I confessed my sins and my need for God. A deep sense of being loved and belonging settled into my soul. When Dallas returned home I eagerly told him of my experience. I'll never forget his response: "It should be a lot safer around here if what you say is true!"

Later that year Dallas attended a Billy Graham Crusade in Nebraska. In the car on the way home, Dallas invited Jesus into his heart. My grandma's words rang true in my heart: "God is always greater" ... and truly is a God of healing and reconciliation. My heart was so full that I began to share Christ freely with others. Then both my parents received Christ, and our relationship began to heal.



At what point did you go into ministry?

Immediately, I knew I was called to share the Good News. I did that where I worked at Northwest Airlines and also at an airline school where I was a teacher. However, in 1971 Dallas and I joined the staff of [Campus Crusade for Christ International](#), and we were also youth workers at a church in Minnesota. In 1974 we moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and established Discipleship Unlimited. Much of our ministry involves healing and reconciliation.

What's it like to spend time with Death Row inmates?

Over the past 11 years, we have developed some deep relationships with the women on Death Row in Texas. One such woman, Karla Tucker Brown, one of the most committed, on-fire Christians I have ever met, has a worldwide ministry from her cell on Death Row. She proclaims the message of Christ whenever possible through letters and television interviews. She also has a powerful prayer ministry.

As strange as it may seem, to walk into that Death Row Unit is like walking on holy ground. We produced a video in which you see Karla at her trial before she met Christ and the Karla we know today. The obvious transformation is unexplainable apart from the healing power of Jesus Christ. That video is now touching lives wherever it is shown. (The prison video is available for a \$10 donation to Discipleship Unlimited.)

[Pam](#) is another Death Row inmate who is very dear to me. She has asked me to be with her at the time of her execution. About eight years ago, she began to trust enough to share the pain of her past. As we prayed together and sought answers through the Word, we were both amazed at the healing that took place. The last time we were together, she shared about a

passage from Scripture she had been studying. Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, in agony as He faced His own execution. His sweat was as drops of blood and He fell prostrate on the ground. He wanted His close friends to stand with Him, but they failed even to stay awake. There is, without a doubt, a depth in our relationship with Christ and with others that only comes through suffering.

What do you think is a key in ministering to broken people?

I think the key to a good ministry, whether it is in prison or in any church, is as Jesus said,

“(His) Father’s house is a house of prayer.”

If ministries are covered by prayer, the people who are doing that type of ministry will have the discernment that they need. I don’t believe that you can just take a book and say, “I’ll have this ministry in my church.” There’s got to be a lot of prayer when seeking God and asking Him to give wisdom and discernment.

Unconditional love is equally important. It was Jesus’ love that caused the brokenhearted to flock to Him and made Him approachable. In our ministry, one of our greatest assets is the love that flows from wounded healers, the people who have come out of brokenness, the Mary Magdalenes. However, we also need those who haven’t experienced that level of hurt because they bring security and stability into the ministry.

Forgiveness is often the beginning point of our healing. We usually need to work pretty seriously on it. I was able to forgive my mother for the rejection I felt from her. There was a horrible bitterness in my heart that seeped into all of my other relationships. Any time someone got close to me, or if I felt any rejection, I would quickly move away from the person because of all the extra baggage in my life. Conflict used to be frightening. Now I realize working through conflict can, with Christ’s help, produce intimacy in relationships.

In addition to your prison ministry you also have Healing For Your Heart conferences. Tell us about these.

About 10 years ago, I started a Bible study. People started to come who had a lot of needs in their lives. As God began to meet those needs, it became very apparent that He was leading us to have a conference for people who were hurting but who didn’t know where to go to receive help. Also, many of our volunteers would leave the prison conferences renewed and deeply touched. They would mention friends who needed help in addressing such issues as sexual abuse, forgiveness, and their identity in Christ.

As a result, **[“Healing For Your Heart”](#)** conferences were started. We teach on the key issues surrounding being whole in Christ. We also spend a lot of time coming into the presence of the Lord through worship. These conferences provide a place where people from very diverse backgrounds can come together in a safe environment and allow the Lord to minister to

them.

What would you like to share with us in summary?

Something the Lord has recently been impressing on my heart is, "Unless you become as a child ..." This is one of the conditions that Jesus requires in order for us to receive from Him. We need to know how to be secure, trusting, and forgiving. God always refers to us as His children:

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God."
(1 John 3:1).

Most children are not phonies. They haven't learned about put-ons, masks, and wolves' clothing. The Father is calling us to be like that—to put off all of this, forgetting our false airs; receiving His life, freedom, and His Spirit of liberty. When that takes place, you see the real power of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that can set men and women free, regardless of background.

Our ministry is just allowing Him to use our lives—lives that say, "I was without hope. I was wounded. I was weary. The Father made me His child and started a wonderful healing process that continues to this day. I have a freedom now that I never knew before, and that's only through the Lord Jesus Christ coming in."

You can also watch Linda's February 5, 2001, TV interview with Terry Meeuwsen on "The 700 Club."

[Home](#) • [About Us](#) • [Karla Faye Tucker](#) • [HeartLove Place](#) • [Prison Ministry](#) • [Healing For Your Heart](#) • [Coming Events](#) • [News](#) • [Resources](#)

Discipleship Unlimited

Linda and Dallas Strom
Box 170423
Milwaukee, WI 53217-0423
Phone: (262) 790-1793
Fax: (262) 790-1827



www.LifeRow.org

Email us at LindaStrom@LifeRow.org.

If you notice problems with this web site,
please contact the [webmaster](#).

This site was last updated on **April 24, 2005** .