

for others who felt like those doors had been permanently closed. I served as a mentor in the Young Adult Therapeutic Program, helping young men confront the same struggles I once faced and teaching them how to rebuild their lives from the inside out. God allowed me to become a leader in a place where I once felt lost, and then He gave me a voice. Through my books, "There's Something About That Chair!" and "Never Hide Your Scars," I have been able to share the message that changed my life—that healing begins when you stop hiding and start surrendering.

God's work did not stop with me; He expanded the vision. I became a co-founder of the Break the Cycle Foundation, an initiative committed to ending multi-generational incarceration, because this cycle is real and it must be broken. I also developed the SHIFT Program, designed to teach young men respect for authority, accountability, and essential life skills, because transformation must be both spiritual and practical. This is what God does—He takes what was broken and builds something that can help others. None of this transformation happened in isolation. God placed people in my life who were willing to invest in me, even when I could not fully see my own potential. Brother Ken Avery and the Calvary Baptist Prison Ministry stood in the gap. They prayed, they showed up, and they believed, and sometimes that belief is the very thing that keeps a person going.

Today, my life stands as a testimony that God can use anyone—not the perfect or the polished, but the surrendered. If He can take a young man shaped by instability, pain, and poor decisions and turn him into a mentor, a leader, an author, and a builder of programs, then there is no life beyond His reach. If you are reading this and feel like your past has disqualified you, it has not. If you feel like your mistakes are too great, they are not. If you feel like giving up, do not. Keep praying, keep believing, and keep showing up. And if you are someone who supports prison ministry, never underestimate your impact, because on the other side of your prayers, your encouragement, and your consistency, there is a life being transformed. God met me in a prison cell, and what He did there changed everything. My scars did not end my story—they became my assignment.

In Christ,



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Michael Dotson