

AN UNLIKELY LEADER: *Erika's Story*

We walked in, roses in hand, and found our way to the strip club lounge. A few minutes later the man who let us in made an announcement for all the working ladies to follow us into the lounge as well. Individually, the girls let out an introductory greeting, masked by their false identity and a forced grin. We handed each of them a single rose, a symbol of how they are loved and precious in the Lord's sight. Some lingered to be with us, some left to continue with their work or personal matters. They knew, regardless of whether you were a customer or not, the quicker they made you feel comfortable, the quicker they could get what needed from you and make you leave. Yet one of them approached us with a sincere type of smile. In a blunt tone she asked:

"Well, you're church ladies, right?"

We nodded and followed in a line that snaked through the tables and through a swinging door. It opened into a very brightly colored room where she yelled to other girls to follow us into the dressing room before she relayed her true request:

"Okay, pray for some rich guys to come in tonight, cuz we need to make some money."

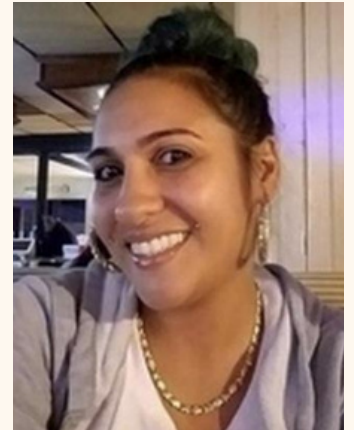
I looked at one of the other church ladies, a much "churchier" lady than myself. I was met with a half smile that clearly said "this prayer is on you." My mouth opened and I said "Lord, bless them".

This was possibly one of my most awkward ministry moments ever, and seems against everything we had learned about how to approach girls over the last fourteen years.

However, that night birthed an unlikely assembly. One of some "church ladies" who happened to show up, and of a feisty leader hidden behind stage lights: Erika King.

For years after this first encounter with Erika, a relationship built on trust & authenticity developed and we were her "go to" family when she needed us.

"My son wants to be baptized but the church I was taking him to won't do it because I'm [still servicing.] But I read the bible and Jesus loves us, and my son. Can you help us?"



"I just got fired. They just got my Criminal [Background Check] back and said I can't work here."

"Remember when I told you I got a job as an office manager? I had to quit. [My boss] knew I had a prostitution charge and wanted me to perform those services [on him]."

"Listen, I know Jesus loves me - I hear him all the time. Seriously! I pray for something, and it happens."

I had heard all of these things and more from her over the years. There was a spirited tenacity, and an expectation of God that she carried. It

may sound crazy to hear of someone who labeled herself as a “sex worker” in many settings to also love Jesus deeply, she did. There are many stories of her fierce protection, including a time where she physically removed a friend from a hotel room with bikers that she knew were not safe. To her, this was how you kept and maintained sisterhood.

Erika carried a unique skill set to make everyone her friend, or foe, and make people want to follow her lead. We accepted her, exactly how she was. We watched, learned, but mostly loved. We (Peace Promise leadership) did not have flashy jobs, or huge friend groups. Instead, we had kids, jobs, husbands, church commitments, and almost zero time.

Yet we had the one thing God asked us: the call to serve Erika and others like her. We carried the heart, hope, and redemptive love of mothers. There are inner wounding central to our survivors that God gave us the supernatural capacity to help heal. God taught us how to love, and love well, through Erika.

However, love does not pay the rent or keep shoes on children's feet. We needed a practical, more tangible way to provide help to our girls. I remember running an idea past Erika:

“What if there was a place?

One that expected a lot from you but also gave you a lot back, and could be more than a job, but a place to explore strengths, learn new skills and grow — a place where support would flow and confidence could grow, too?”

We wondered if there could be a place where everything that previously disqualified Erika, could qualify her, even equip her to soar! Maybe we could build a place that would be more than just a paycheck but help her navigate the world. Thus the dream for Good Ground was planted.

Erika was fully on board and adamant that - whatever it was we had in mind - she would one day run it and lead it. In November 2021, Susan Vigliano, Co-founder of Peace Promise felt an urging in prayer. She felt we would soon have a building for businesses.

Yet we were quickly halted, with a nearly unbearable blow.

On December 28, 2021, we lost our dear Erika to evil at the hands of her abuser.

“It nearly broke us,” Susan will still say if you ask her about how the loss affected all of Peace Promise staff & family. This grief only spurred us to move forward with the dream planted by God, one that Erika had watered tenderly through the years.

To honor her and all the other “Erikas” in Central PA that could not see a path to freedom from exploitation, Good Ground Coffee Co. was opened. This is typically when one would write “and the rest is history”, or at least what has been more public.

What often remains unseen still, is Erika's picture in a teal frame (her favorite color) that hangs in my office. I often glance over and smile as I sit and hear our friends exploring life, growing and sharing their stories, knowing Erika would be proud of them.



Erika's memory is always present to remind us why Good Ground Coffee is more than a cup of coffee.

When we look into our mugs, it's her smile and bright eyes that fill the reflection.

Patty Seaman,
Director of Client Services

Catelynne Lewis
Marketing Coordinator

TAMP INTO Good Ground

Working at Good Ground means more than just making coffee.

It is joining a team whose daily work directly supports the healing programs of Peace Promise, aiding the mission of restoring hope and strengthening lives of individuals who have been impacted by sexual exploitation.



Interested in being a vendor?
Reach out to catelynne@peacepromise.org



Soaps *by* Survivors

Retail Locations

Good Ground Coffee
244 S 17th Street
Camp Hill

**Kastu Collective
(Capital City Mall)**
3506 Capital City Mall Dr,
Camp Hill

Locals Market
200 N U.S. 15
Dillsburg

Longnecks True Value
127 Doe Run Road
Manheim

Messiah Lifeways
100 Mount Allen Road
Mechanicsburg

Roots Salon
3804 Gettysburg Road
Camp Hill

Route 174 Roadside Market
849 Boiling Springs Road.
Mechanicsburg

Smucker Gardens
1677 US-209
Millersburg



Visit Us

Mon thru Friday
7am - 3pm

Saturday
8am - 3pm

Two businesses.
One home.
One purpose.





Drivers Needed



Our Direct Care Team is looking for a few individuals who would be willing to volunteer as part of our list of drivers to assist as needs arise.

For more information, email
volunteer@peacepromise.org



Volunteers Needed at Good Ground Coffee!

We have some openings to help cover volunteer shifts at Good Ground Coffee.



Please contact Elyse Acosta at
goodgroundcoffee@peacepromise.org
for more information & ways to get involved!



Summer is almost over!

Is there a summer activity that you love to do with your family that you would like to financially sponsor for the group, or simply provide the supplies for the experience? Ideas could include: Lake Tobais; Picnic at Little Buffalo; Herr's Drive in movie night; Mini Golf and Ice-cream. We would love to share your family's favorites with the community of survivors as they grow in experiences.

Reach out to rebecca@peacepromise.org or patty@peacepromise.org

Service Opportunity

Would You Consider Providing Meals For Our Survivor Groups?



Please consider partnering with Peace Promise by signing up to either:
1) make a meal OR
2) sponsor a meal for our survivor support groups. There are a variety of dates and times available and this is one easy way that our community can walk with us in survivor support.

Do you have a skill or hobby to share?

Master of Power Tools?
Fishing? Yes, please. Basic home maintenance? We should ALL learn how to shut off an overflowing toilet!

Or are you a tech person that wants to teach how to use sheets, or google drive? We want you!



For more information, on either of these opportunities mail
rebecca@peacepromise.org

Run for ►►► Freedom

OCT. 11. 2026

*Gather your friends, family, coworkers, or church community and create a fundraising team! In-person event **Saturday, October 11, at Penbrook Community Park** or organize your own run or walk at a time and place of your choosing!*

We would love to meet with your community!

Consider connecting with us as you fill your calendar this year. We can speak on topics such as the sex industry, trafficking, and pornography, among other topics. We would love to speak to your church, group, or school. We would love to share our mission with you!

For more information, email us at admin@peacepromise.org



Partner Number: 50045

Peace Promise receives a portion of the proceeds anytime you make a donation to Community Aid when you give them our name and our partner number! So make those donations and don't forget to tell them who sent you!

Donate Now



Upcoming Dates!

- 08/08 Creative Cup @ Christ Community Church (Soaps BS)
- 9/19 After Hours Craft Fair (Good Ground)
- 10/11: Run for Freedom (In-Person)

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Peace Promise is a 501 (c)(3) organization.

