

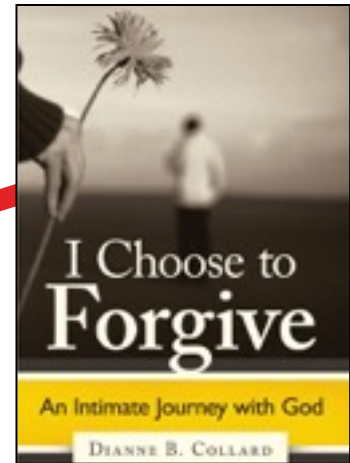
Labyrinth

March, 2016

Ministry of Dr. Dianne B. Collard

(Photos by [Rachel Hendrick](#))

The launch of ArtsCharlotte at the CIVA Symposium was a success. There were 120 attending, from 6 states. Bruce Herman was our featured speaker/artist, along with Sandra Bowden, Carmella Jarvi, Tim Briggs, Allison Luce, Carrie Givens and myself. We look forward to sponsoring this again in Spring, 2017.



Living a Miracle

After 23+ Years, A Momentous Meeting

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners: On Sunday, March 13th, Glenn and I experienced a God-breathed and blessed miracle. It was so filled with God's grace that it is almost indescribable. For the first time since Tim was murdered, we met the man who killed him. We spent an afternoon in laughter (!) and joy. Really! Glenn and I had incredible peace before, during and after the meeting. It almost felt surreal that we should be eager for this meeting. I realized that we had been working towards this meeting since Tim was killed. It was the natural "next step" in our forgiveness journey. Actually it was the first step in our reconciliation/relationship journey.

While Mike was very hesitant to meet with us (mainly fearing to meet Glenn), we assured him that we weren't meeting to rehearse the past (other than God's faithfulness). We wanted to build a relationship for the future. When we walked up (in front of the transition house where he stays), he looked very fearful. I opened my arms and asked, "May I hug you?" Both Glenn and I put our arms around him, and he began to cry, repeating, "I'm so sorry" over and over. We said, "We know that you are. We accept it. but we want to talk about your life now and in the future." He accepted that and the rest of our afternoon together was as easy and natural as if we were life-long friends. Amazing. God's promised peace prevailed—truly beyond human understanding!

I won't attempt to recreate our conversation, but I wanted you to know how glorious the experience was. Totally amazing. Truly a God-filled experience. Mike said as we were leaving, "I knew God would make this meeting OK, but I never knew that I could feel such joy!"

Mike told me of the number of fellow prisoners who have either come to faith or were encouraged in their walk with God through the reading of my book. It still seems impossible that he shared a book about his crime with others in the prison, but it was to God's glory.

I hope you catch the reality of the power of God. The freedom of forgiveness that God offers is total and complete. The day that I once thought would be impossible to endure, became of day of grace and God's glory. Mike kept exclaiming that God has allowed him to see the "hands and face of God" in our family's and my brother's response. Praise God.

Please pray for Mike as he rebuilds a relationship with his adult children, learns to live in a digital world, and enters "normal" life in freedom as a child of God. He's already found a job and is eager to have his own place to live.

To God be the Glory!

This n' That

ArtsCharlotte Continues

After such a successful "launch", the ArtsCharlotte Core Team is now discussing our next steps and how best be organized to accomplish the call of God for "nurturing the soul of our city through the arts". I'm starting "Coffee & Conversation about the Nexus of Art & Faith" meetings in coffee houses both Uptown and in South Charlotte. We're participating with Warehouse242 for their semi-annual Gallery night in May. To keep up with the various planned events, check out our [website](#).

Prayer & Praise

- * Praise God for a very successful ministry/personal trip to California.
- * Pray for the building of my support team. I'm currently at about 25% of the goal.
- * Pray for Mike's spiritual growth and the salvation of his children.
- * Praise God for the excellent launch of ArtsCharlotte at the CIVA Symposium.
- * Pray for a speaking engagement at Campus Bible Church in Fresno, California in May.
- * Praise God for working through my messages at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Europe Ministry

Several of the A.C.T. Intl staff in Europe are in need of prayer, as well as many other ministry colleagues. Pray for God's safety, provisions and open doors.

Join with Me in Ministry

I need a team of people praying & giving regularly to make this ministry successful. Please join me!

Send tax-deductible donations to:

**A.C.T. Intl, P.O.Box 1649,
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