

Destined to be Pure

“I am no longer a survivor, but an overcomer.” These words resonate from the heart and soul of Sancha Haysbert-Smith, State Director of Concerned Women for America (CWA) of Louisiana. Despite the pain and shame of experiences in her childhood, Sancha rejoices in healing from the Lord and the call He gave her to start an abstinence ministry in her community.

Sancha formed the Daughters of Destiny in 2002 while heeding God’s call on her life to create a unique abstinence ministry to young women who would not only hear the message of purity but also the message of the Gospel. After Sancha’s pastor gave her the green light to use the church as an avenue for presenting this ministry, Sancha and several other volunteers dove headlong into the project.

They created a six-month curriculum focusing on three areas of purity: spiritual, emotional and physical, with the goal of renewing hearts and minds. They advertised through secular media, and Sancha’s first group of students was mostly



In the land of the “Big Easy,” Sancha Haysbert-Smith is standing for righteousness.

comprised of wards of the state, many of whom had never heard the Gospel or the message of abstinence.

Girls who go through the Daughters of Destiny ministry attend the class each Saturday, and Sancha and her volunteers have lunch, donated by local restaurants and grocery stores, ready for them. Lessons consist of question time, object lessons, special speakers, fashion shows and mentoring. Sancha emphasizes hygiene and modesty along with the message of abstinence. As she says to the girls

about their clothing and character, “Whatever bait you put on the hook determines what you will catch. If you want a husband with good qualities, you must exhibit those qualities yourself.”

More importantly, Sancha brings the Gospel to these young women. She says, “If I can introduce them to the Savior, when they fall in love with Him, the rest will eventually come along.” Sancha teaches these girls to forgive those who have hurt them, consecrate themselves to Christ and “see themselves through the Father’s eyes, which shapes their identity in Christ.”

Each six-month class concludes with a graduation or rite of passage, during which each girl is presented by

her father and makes a pledge of purity to God, her parents, herself and her future husband.

God used the difficult circumstances of Sancha’s childhood to inspire her to create the Daughters of Destiny ministry. “What the enemy meant for evil, God meant for good,” says Sancha. “God took the victim and made him the victor; He took the wounded and made him the weapon.” Through the ministry of Daughters of Destiny many lives are being touched by the Gospel, and many young women are discovering their great value as a daughter of the King of Kings. ■

By Anna Higgins, Assistant to the National Field Director

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