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Dr. Debbie Lassiter**

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of The Holy Bible unless otherwise indicated.

**ISBN 1-4243-0350-8  
ISBN 978-1-4243-0350-2**

**Printed in the United States of America**

*Right Here*

**IN**

**THE**

*Middle*

**BY**

**Dr. Debbie Lassiter**

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# *Dedication*

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First and foremost to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be all Glory, Honor and Praise Forever and Ever. THANK YOU JESUS! YOU ARE SO WORTHY! You have saved my life and my mind. I love you and anything I have already belongs to you.

Secondly to all of the people standing in the middle, feeling alone. You are not alone. If you belong to Him, Jesus is there. He said He'd never leave you or forsake you.

Thirdly to my friends and family that have supported me in all of my endeavors. You know who you are. Everyone that says they are supporting you really isn't. I THANK GOD that He has surrounded me with people that love and support me for real. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

# *Foreword*

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The Bible teaches that Christians are not immune from trials, temptations, and even tragedies. David said: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19).

Jesus said: "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulations; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Paul said: "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (I Cor. 10:13).

Debbie has written a book that I believe will be an encouragement to those going through trials to keep their focus upon Jesus Who gives the strength to persevere and to triumph over trials, temptations, and tragedies.

**Julius R. Malone**  
Senior Pastor  
**New Testament Church**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Many Christians have the mistaken idea that obedience to God's will produces "smooth sailing" in life. But this is not always true. The word of God says in John 16:33...These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

As we read our Bibles, we discover that there are two kinds of life storms. There are the storms of correction, when God disciplines us for acts of disobedience and storms of perfection, when God helps us to grow in spiritual maturity as we act in obedience to His word and will. Jonah was in a storm because he disobeyed God and had to be corrected. Jesus commanded His disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. The disciples' boat was in the middle of the sea being tossed by the waves for the wind was contrary. Jesus walked on water to rescue them. The disciples

were in a storm because they obeyed Christ and had to be perfected as found in Matthew 14:22-33.

I am convinced that Debbie Lassiter fully understands these biblical truths as she displays the word of God in facing the storms of life in everyday living. It has been my joy to know Debbie, to fellowship with her, and to observe these biblical truths in action.

This book is crafted in such a way that it will touch the heart and mind of its readers and will no doubt be an instrument of encouragement to any facing the storms of life.

**Andrew Hopgood**  
Assistant Pastor  
**New Testament Church**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

# *Introduction*

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I heard a song the other day. It was very melodious. All of the words just seemed to flow together. Ah yes the words. The lyrics. It talked about being shattered but not broken. I thought a person couldn't really sing this song if they had never been in that place. I don't mean they couldn't stand in front of a group of people and hit every note. I don't mean they couldn't perform so well that everyone rose to their feet. I mean a person couldn't really minister the depth and reality of this song without experiencing a life shattering, heart wrenching time. I mean they couldn't break through all of your defenses and pretenses touching your innermost being, somehow agreeing with a place in you that has been guarded and protected from everyone and everything around you. I mean they couldn't reach that place where you don't care what anyone says and you don't care who sees you. You must respond! Perhaps you've been so blessed that you have never had a moment in your life that you weren't absolutely sure that death

might be better. At least it would be over. No more tears, no more heartache and no more warring.... Perhaps you have always stood firm and never even for an instant, wondered... Well let me tell you that I have had quite a few moments like that. During my trials I have read books about people who have gone through much worse than I did. But there is one thing I haven't read. I don't remember reading a book about a person that was right smack dab in the middle of their spiritual storm. What is a spiritual storm? A spiritual storm is like living your life feeling like you are standing in the middle of a whirlwind. Nothing appears to be going the way it is supposed to. You can't even recall or figure out what happened. People that should trust you, push you away. People that should love you turn away or go away. The principle of working hard to receive a positive reward seems to be obsolete or somehow malfunctioning. You do everything you believe you should be doing but somehow everything continues to go wrong. Your children are rebelling and you don't remember being a rebellious child. The company eliminates your position and

though highly qualified you can't seem to find employment. The list goes on and on. Then there are those around you that are experiencing positive results in similar circumstances. And just like you, I rejoice with them. I love hearing the glorious testimonies. I am delighted to see the miraculous victories. However, we have no control over the duration of the storm before seeing the victory. We can't see down the road to the outcome. We know that it will be for our good and God's glory but let's be brutally honest for a moment and acknowledge an unpopular fact. Knowing that the end result will be in my favor doesn't always encourage me. I need some relief now! There are moments when I need to know that the place I'm standing isn't foreign. I need to know that there are other strong Christians that may be standing here also. I want to let anyone that may be standing in a storm know that you are not alone. I don't want those that have seen victory to forget that we are here. We are standing where they once were. I want to let everyone know that my faith isn't wavering. I'm not reaping what I sowed. I'm just in the middle. You may not

understand the middle so I'm writing this book to let you know  
how it feels right now. Right here. In the middle.