

Black History Month

Interviewing Members of Messiah

“Tragic Beginning, Triumphant Ending

“**Tragic Beginning, Triumphant Ending** “is a remarkable story from a mighty woman of God, born and raised in Alabama prior to and during the Civil Rights Movement. She is sharing a part of her life story that will bring every reader to the depths of what began as a tragedy turned triumphant in victory.



Evangelist Ivy Caddell was born in Coapta, Alabama in 1949 and raised in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. During the sixties, when Ivy was just a teen, she witnessed a lot of violence such as Church bombings and police brutality towards African Americans.

On April 29, 1965 Ivy and her siblings were on an errand walking to the store for her mother when they saw a car driving towards them with several white males (teens) hanging out of the window yelling obscenities at them. All of a sudden the car turned off its lights and started driving towards her younger sister as if they were attempting to harm her. Ivy remembers reacting quickly to protect her sister by pushing her out of the way and nothing more. Ivy was later told by her siblings that one of the white guys had thrown a brick and hit her on the right side of her face. The brick had such blunt force, that it severed her right ear from her head. Large amounts of blood immediately oozed from every facial cavity, including her eyes, ears, mouth and nose. Ivy laid nearly lifeless on the road unconscious in a “pool of blood” with her chances of survival dwindling. By the grace of God, there was a group of African American guys across the street working on a vehicle. They called the ambulance for help, but it never came. So the guys transported Ivy to the hospital in their car that they were working on.

Upon arrival at the hospital the medical doctors and nurses began to work on her immediately. After finding out what had happened to Ivy, they contacted the police to go back to the crime scene and locate her severed ear. She was rushed into

surgery and her ear was reattached. The doctors told her mother that Ivy would not live, that she was going to die. Ivy heard a voice while lying unconscious, which spoke that she was going to die at 9:50pm. Her spirit life was going out of her body. She said that God told her spirit to go back because her time was not now. Ivy's condition was so grave that it left her in a coma. The medical staff determined that she was not going to live much longer. But if she did live she would never be able to remember or comprehend. They said that she would be a "vegetable" or spend the remainder of her life in a mental institution. Ivy's family went through turmoil with the hospital because they didn't have insurance. Back then if you didn't have insurance and you needed terminal care you practically belonged to the state. The hospital tried to get Ivy's mother, Mary, to sign paperwork that would make Ivy a ward of the state of Alabama to care for her the rest of her life. Ivy said, her mother Mary was determined that if she died, she would rather her die at home.

Mary took Ivy home but she still had to be transported back and forth often for medical treatments. The doctors would press on her head daily to get the infection to run. She also received injections in the head and she had to take several medications for migraine headaches. She also needed medication to help her to open her eyes. The doctors left a hole in her head so that it would constantly drain. Over time, with treatments and the prayers of her grandmother and family members and natural healing remedies, she began to improve. Her family was diligent in church attendance and their faith in God. There was one particular church service her family transported her to, so that an Evangelist from Georgia could pray over her. The Evangelist poured blessed oil that ran from her head down the rest of her body. That day she declared healing and deliverance for Ivy. Ivy began to heal by the grace of God. She became coherent and was able to see and comprehend. Ivy graduated from high school in spite of her condition. Today, she is a prayer warrior with the gift of faith. She is a traveling Evangelist who has earned several educational degrees and specialized licenses. She owns her own business and has a radio broadcast and has opened a healing school called "With God all things are possible". Ivy stands bold in the ministry and supports the Civil Rights Movement and celebrates black history. Ivy's life is a miracle with a triumphant end.