



Book Review:

Echoes of Mercy

by Nancy Alcorn

Nancy Alcorn began her career working for the State of Tennessee at a correctional facility for delinquent girls. She loved the girls and wanted desperately to help them but often doubted that her work was making a difference. She became increasingly frustrated at how inadequate and ineffectual the secular programmes were. The girls were not given the hope that they needed to believe that their lives could be really changed. Nancy found that no matter how many academic degrees a person may have, the real power to change a life lay in the simplicity of the gospel to transform a person from the inside out.

One day she was invited to attend a meeting of Teen Challenge - an organisation founded by David Wilkerson and through a series of events following this, was given the opportunity to fulfil her hearts desire which was to work with troubled young women in a Christian environment.

She set about the huge task of establishing a home for girls who were in need because of drugs, alcohol, teen-age pregnancy, abuse, neglect, depression or sometimes a combination of several of these. Many doubted the practical possibility of such a venture but it wasn't long before lives began to be changed as it became known that there was place of refuge for these girls.

This was the beginning of a work that has now spread around America and other parts of the world including New Zealand. Auckland has recently opened its own "Mercy Ministries" home and the first of the girls has now 'graduated'.

Read this wonderful story in Nancy Alcorn's book *Echoes of Mercy*. It is available in the Surfside Library.

Reviewed by Shirley Peart