



Meet Damaris Molina

By Donna H Eliason

“When we are in the midst of a storm, we have a hard time having faith in God. We would rather worry ourselves ragged than ‘Let go and let God,’” says Damaris. She knows from numerous experiences that Lord can be trusted in all situations.

Born at Santa Clara Kaiser, Damaris grew up with two siblings and a large extended family. She attended local schools: Valley Vista, Quimby Oak and Mt Pleasant High. Her childhood dream was to become a teacher because she loved kids. Her Southern Baptist family attended all weekly services, and made sure Damaris knew Bible stories.

As a high school senior, Dee joined the newly formed South Valley Christian Church and its daughter, Cry Out Christian Fellowship church. There, through Bible studies and the influence of good friends, Damaris “wanted to have a deeper walk with the Lord.” She supported her mom while her dad dealt with his posttraumatic Vietnam War syndrome. She’s taken classes at DeAnza and West Valley with possible plans to be a child psychologist.

In the past, Damaris dated and had a few boyfriends until she was introduced to a non-Christian man in 1995 that changed her life. When their eyes locked, she knew this was it. “You’ve got to trust me,” she told her mom who wondered, “Who is this? He’s not like anyone you’ve dated before.” Galley attended the church valentine’s dinner, then weekly church with her and later turned his life over to Christ.

Even though a 2002 wedding was planned, Damaris and Galley eloped to Las Vegas. Because of the family’s disappointment, they planned a November public wedding. However, because of Galley’s previous legal issues, he was sentenced to incarceration in Bakersfield. Damaris moved into a cottage behind a cousin’s house. She spent every weekend with Galley, but during the week she took over his business. They were in the process of filming ten comedy shows. “With him gone, this meant I had to do everything: run the show, work with the camera crews, deal with the promoters, and deal with the comedians’ contracts, attend marketing meetings, etc, plus I was the makeup artist each night. With the exception of being a certified makeup artist, I had no experience in the other areas, but I got the job done. Talk about stress. All this took place in LA so I was constantly traveling. During those car rides I cried out to God.” He heard and answered.

When Galley was transferred to Las Vegas, she moved also, but this time without family or friends there for support. God quickly revealed Christian women to her. Those women became her family and her home became a “hotel” where they stayed; waiting for the weekend visit with their incarcerated loved one. She filled her home with the ladies and their children so she would not dwell on HER emptiness.

In March 2004, before transferring to Alabama, she spent one day with Galley, and became pregnant. Damaris returned to her parents’ home in San Jose. During those last 9 months their faith was tested. It was especially true when she had a close call with cervical cancer. With minor surgery and major prayer everything worked out. Francis Mateo arrived on December 17, 2004, and her husband, one month later. Damaris’ step-daughter, Mercedes is 14 and lives in Vallejo. The two of them have a wonderful relationship and continues to get better daily.

The Molinas came to EVC because they knew Tim at SVCC. “The people here are more than family to us.” *To God Be the Glory* is an old hymn that remains a favorite song. Fred Hammond is one of her favorite worship leaders, but her husband takes the number one spot. “I absolutely melt when I see my husband lead worship. How lucky am I to be blessed by God in so many amazing ways; from my children, to my husband, to my church family.