

Dorothy Savage

DOROTHY SAVAGE is more than an extraordinary new presence in the world of contemporary Christian music. Dorothy's is a voice with a message of hope and encouragement, spoken and sung by a true young "survivor" in the game of life.

With the release of her debut album project *Glorious Mess*, listeners are at the very beginning of a rewarding new journey with a remarkable young woman. Her vibrant pink packaging on the new music is by design—a reminder of her personal commitment to daily add a bright splash of effervescent personality and color (her favorite, in this case!) to the world she encounters.

Her world these days—from the studios of Nashville to the theater stages of New York and beyond—is a universe totally removed from her beginnings.

Born in New England but raised in the rural climes of Florida and most notably Alabama, Dorothy lived most of her young life, in her own words "in a shell of a house in the middle of nowhere." The youngest of four children, she recalls a childhood of tough financial struggles and often raw emotional pain. An anchor for her in the midst of life's chaos was a mother who prayed and a very early realization for Dorothy that Jesus was her life's only true 'safe place.'

Her early years birthed a fierce determination to be an overcomer. "I learned very early in my life to develop the little train mentality... 'I think I can, I think I can!' We had very little parental guidance so I made a conscious decision to set my own boundaries, to learn self preservation by seeing other people's experiences and not repeating their mistakes. I knew I didn't want what I saw around me to limit me or my circumstances in life to define who I was. I knew instinctively even as a child that God had given me specific gifts and a calling. I was determined to be all I could be."

Beyond her music today, Dorothy bears victorious scars to share in her message of encouragement for other young women. "I was asked the other day if I have a 'core ministry message' —something I know that is standard issue in Christian music. The answer for me is a single word: Strength. I have a real heart to reach young women with the message, 'Be strong, be a woman of purpose!' Whether God calls you to be a wife and mother—or you step away from the traditional expectations and become the CEO of your own company—be unique in God and celebrate your calling and purpose!"

Dorothy's own resilience was deeply tested when, at 13, her mother was diagnosed with cancer. She became her mother's caregiver throughout her teens and through the loss of her mother at 19.

Graduating high schools with honors, Dorothy subsequently applied for and got a scholarship to study music at the University of Mobile. She got her degree in three years with her sites set for New York. "I was totally green and clueless with no training in theater! After a year of working at our local bank—where the joke was I was out of balance every day—I sold everything I had and boarded the Amtrak for New York with \$7.00 and a packed lunch. New York was very tough on my first attempt! It was very hard to find work in theater and I ended up ultimately going back home to Alabama – discouraged momentarily, but not defeated, and definitely determined to go back."

The trip back home held a priceless treasure.

"I was working in admissions at the University of Mobile, endlessly planning my next assault on New York, when one weekend around the holidays I decided to take my sister's kids to a Christmas parade in the little town of Fairhope, Alabama. I was standing there watching the parade when from across the street, this attractive guy came over to say 'hello.' This was a miracle in itself as I found out later how shy he is and how totally engrossed with football! I also later learned he was there with his parents on a weekend at home from his work with the Baltimore Ravens and had randomly decided to come to the parade with them, and that he knew immediately I was 'the one' ...!"

"The way I met my husband and the kind of man he is, is a tremendous part of my testimony on how God healed my life. Marriage was the last thing I wanted—having seen the emotional pain of my mother's life and the total sacrifice she made of her own dreams. I decided very early on, this was not the life I wanted! I had made a pact with myself to never let a man rule or ruin my life. Somehow, this little book, *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* by Joshua Harris fell into my hands somewhere along the way. I read it and remember thinking—'what could it hurt if I made a list of what I'd like in a husband?-not that it would be likely I'd ever really want one for real! I recall making the list –one column titled 'This Is What I Want'—filled in with all the ideals. The other column, I titled, 'This Is What You Know I Need'—and I left it blank for God to fill-in. Looking back at my 'wish list' after I met Phillip Savage, I was reminded that the first thing I had written in my column was: 'I want to be picked out of a crowd.'"

"Our marriage has been blessed beyond measure. My husband is a very strong Christian who encourages me to be fearless. He has never once asked me to be anything but the strong woman that I am. God knew just the man to break through the barriers I had built in my life, and once inside, to have the confidence and strength to still give me the space to be me."

With homes now both in Alabama where Phillip is part of the Crimson Tide Sports Network, and New York City (“a fun cool, studio apartment done all in pink and so ‘over the top’ HGTV recently came to film it!”), Dorothy is now living a life she could once only imagine—accompanied on the journey by both an adoring husband and devoted “children”—the Savages’ two adorable Yorkshire terriers, Emma and Wicket. In her rare spare time Dorothy enjoys interior designing, travel, (“anything adventurous and thrill seeking”), studying eco-architecture, and making the final approach on getting her own pilot’s license. “I love to fly and getting in the air is such a tremendous sense of freedom—a real childhood dream comes true!”

With her life today has come the freedom to pursue not only both theater and her music, but also the potential ministry outreach she hopes to establish.

With so many creative avenues beckoning and life for Dorothy hitting so many high notes, two short years ago she was stricken with the loss of her sister, Jennifer, who died from cancer. “We finished each other’s sentences. She was three years older than me but like my mother and my best friend in one. The last five months I moved in and cared for her and in that time, God stretched me beyond the limits of what I knew I could do.”

“The lesson I learned from losing my sister is that ‘faith that moves mountains’ is not about getting your way. Having faith is facing being crucified or losing people that are the most precious to you and trusting God for the outcome. Too many people miss the real meaning of God’s love—He’s the most real and palpable in the most excoriating circumstances when He is all there is to hold on to. Anyone can love when you’re getting your way.”

It’s no mistake that Dorothy Savage’s new music reflects a heart with a tremendous capacity for reflecting God’s love. A heart with a capacity to make a grey world bright with promise.

In the tracks of *Glorious Mess*, listeners will meet a rare young woman indeed. One worth knowing.