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ingrained the pain may feel, your story is far from over. True healing and redemption are always within reach.

Endorsements:

“Marlana is an extraordinary servant in God’s family. I was amazed when I first heard her story. She is an inspiring example of overcoming a very difficult youth, as she courageously shares in *Pretty Suffering*.”

– Jennifer Lambert

“I want to have copies of this book to share because it is a great testimony of God’s power to help us find hope in painful circumstances, and his ability to give us confidence when the world wants to fill us with shame and get us to hide. Marlana’s description of her abuse is just enough to make the reader feel the gravity of the experience without dwelling on details. Her honesty and transparency about wanting to look good on the outside to make up for the ugliness felt inside speaks to every woman’s heart, I believe. Best of all, she shares scripture after scripture that point to the power and goodness of God.”

– Gail Medina

“*Pretty Suffering* is such a powerful and encouraging read. Marlana shares her story with so much honesty and

vulnerability that you can’t help but cheer for her as you see God’s hand at work through every season of her life. Her journey is a beautiful reminder that our past doesn’t have to define us and that God can bring healing, freedom, and purpose out of the deepest pain. I finished this book feeling inspired and so thankful for the incredible power of God’s redeeming love. Everyone should read this book.”

– Nickol Todd

About the author

Marlana Adams Cherry grew up in Jersey City, New Jersey, amid family instability, loss and abuse. Through her faith in God, she found a foundation of grace, perseverance and hope. For more than 12 years, she has helped raise nearly 50 children, discovering the joy of motherhood through nurturing others. Marlana and her husband, Brian, whom she met at Hampton Roads Church, have built their marriage on faith and the support of their church family. She currently works as a driver, transporting children in challenging situations. She also serves on the board of “SiStar Society Academy of Excellence,” an organization that mentors girls aged nine to 17.

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> One Month Away! Register for 2026 North American Church-Building Teachers Conference

August 18, 2026 • Kyle Saxton – Triangle, NC, USA

Registration is now open for the 2026 North American Church-Building Teachers Conference set to take place online or in person in Raleigh, NC, from September 17-19. This year’s theme is “The Teacher’s Spiritual...

> Southern Africa Campus Encounter 2026

August 17, 2026 • Vida Li Sik – Johannesburg, South Africa

Campus minister Jake Graham shares about the campus ministry in Johannesburg and highlights from the recent Campus Encounter. Students from South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe gathered for a memorable retreat filled with inspiring...

> Hope for Kids 2027 Leadership Opportunities

August 12, 2026 • Hope for Kids

In 2027, Hope for Kids will welcome another generation of young leaders through three experiences along that journey: Chance of a Lifetime, Camp Staff, and the Hope for Kids Leadership Academy. Applications for all three open September 1. For decades, Hope...

> Greater Houston Church Special Needs Parents Workshop

August 12, 2026 • Matthew Bridges – Houston, TX, USA

Join the Greater Houston Church Special Needs Support Team for a practical parent workshop designed to help families navigate the new school year with confidence. Learn how to monitor your child’s...



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To Inspire, Inform, Unify and Grow
the International Churches of Christ

INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL NEWS BULLETIN

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From Suffering to Purpose: Marlana Adams Cherry’s Journey of Grace

UPCOMING EVENTS

North American Singles Conference

September 3-6, 2026
Baltimore, MD, USA

DT Travel 2026 Mediterranean Cruise:

Footsteps of Paul
September 12–22, 2026

North American Teachers Conference

September 17-19, 2026
Raleigh, NC, USA

Spacon

October 2-4, 2026
Brisbane, Australia

Minister’s Wellness Webinar

October 15, 2026
Online

Conferencia de Las Americas

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Oct 15-18, 2026

Western US Elders Retreat

April 8-11, 2027
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, USA

Singles Cruise

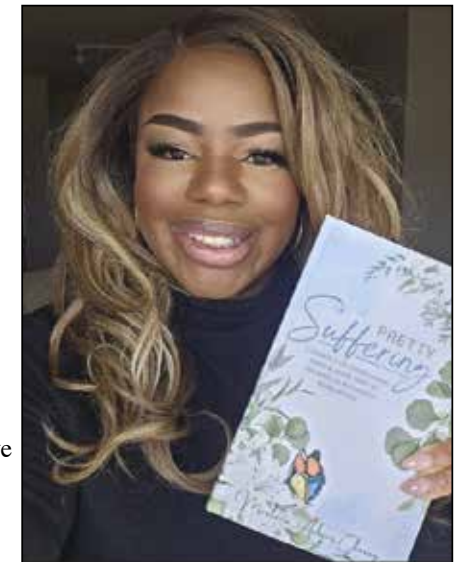
April 22-25, 2027
San Diego, CA, USA

August 15, 2026 • Marlana Adams Cherry – Hobart, WI, USA

What happens when the pain you spent a lifetime trying to outrun becomes the exact foundation for your life’s true calling? In her raw, deeply personal memoir, *Pretty Suffering*, author Marlana Adams Cherry delivers an unflinching look at trauma, spiritual rebirth, and the transformative power of faith.

Set against the gritty backdrop of Jersey City, Cherry’s narrative exposes the painful realities of growing up amidst trauma, abuse, and addiction. For years, she found herself caught in destructive relationship cycles—walking a path that felt eerily similar to the generation before her. Yet, where many stories end in resignation, Cherry’s takes a radical turn toward redemption through an encounter with God.

What distinguishes *Pretty Suffering* from standard inspirational memoirs is its authenticity. Cherry does not shy away from the dark chapters of her journey; instead, she demonstrates how God can salvage and repurpose even the most discarded parts of a person’s life. It serves as both a personal recount of survival and a roadmap for anyone feeling trapped by their past. Cherry’s narrative stands as a powerful reminder: no matter how deeply



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