

FACES OF FAITH.

A ministry for women Team offers help in healing hurt

Evangelists Faye Cohen and Miriam Sumner: Co-founders of the Crown of Glory Ministries, a traveling ministry without walls.

Background: Cohen grew up in New York City and was saved and born again two years after she moved to the Albany area 22 years ago. She is author of "Dandelions in the Heart," on the healing power of forgiveness. Her adult daughter lives in Maryland and her son is a college student.

Sumner was born in Puerto Rico, grew up in Amsterdam and has lived in Albany 15 years. She has published three books of poems: "Free Indeed," "For your Glory," "For Your Glory II." She and her husband have two adult children who live in Albany.

How did you happen to found your ministry?

The ministry began because of a need to help women ravaged by rape, abortion, drugs, alcohol or adultery in their marriage.

We were in church and we saw women who were hurting. We saw that family conferences were held in churches but more needed to be done.

We tried to found a safe place for these women and felt women should have their own church.

We say we are a traveling trauma unit for emotional and spiritual needs.

The topic of one of our first gathering was forgiveness. A lot of women related and said they had difficulty forgiving.

We serve the Lord, and by helping women we are serving the Lord.

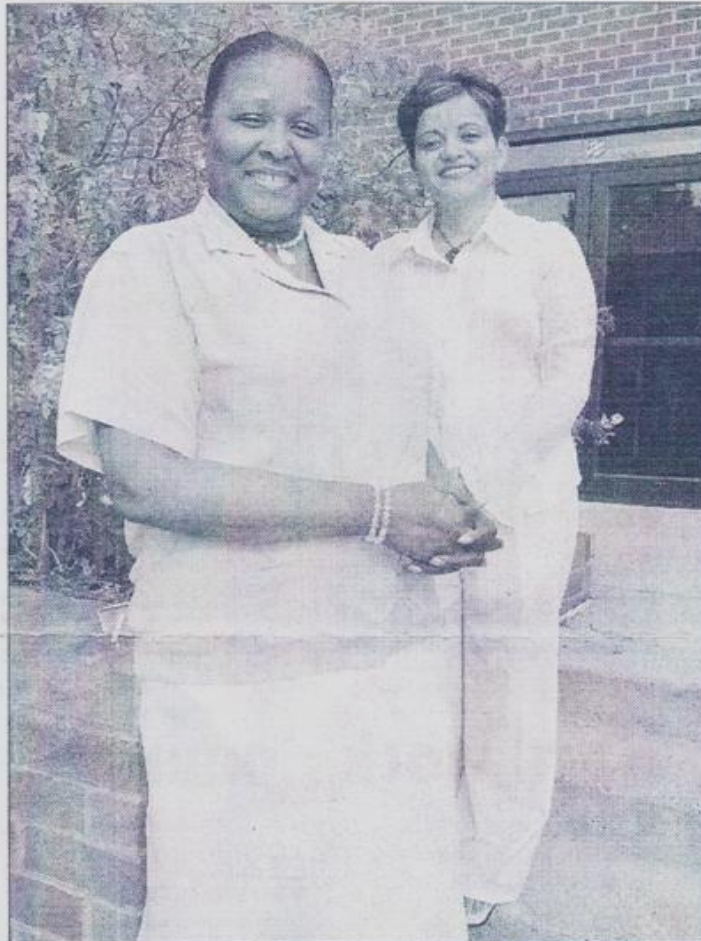
How did both of you get together?

We started our jobs on the same day at the same place. We didn't hit it off right away but gradually bonded because we began to have lunch together.

We had our first event at our own church, Wilborn Temple in Albany. The event was the first of its kind for women only and was very effective ministering to the women.

We have a lot of stuff we transport when we speak. We started out with some stuff in boxes and used to rent and borrow the rest. Now we have our own set, sound equipment, computers, podium, tapes, books.

How often do you have gatherings?



LORI VAN BUREN/TIMES UNION

EVANGELISTS Faye Cohen, left, and Miriam Sumner founded Crown of Glory Ministries to help women. Services are today at the Salvation Army in Albany.

We set up crusades and as often as possible locally and out-of-town, including one today at the Salvation Army on South Ferry Street in Albany. Each year, we have one major two-day conference. It will be Oct. 8 to 9 in Glenmont. We will both speak and there will be testimony from women whose lives have been changed.

We are not restricted to any denomination. That is why we like to meet at neutral locations: hotels, community centers, the Salvation Army. Attendees have included women who are Methodists, Muslim, Catholic, Baptist.

Women are women. We go through the same issues. Pain is universal.

—Azra Haqqie

CRUSADE

- WHO: Crown of Glory Ministries
- WHAT: Free one-day crusade for women in recovery
- WHEN: 2 p.m. today
- WHERE: Salvation Army, 20 S. Ferry St., Albany
- CONTACT: 426-3672 or CGloryfems@aol.com