

Celebrity Interview: Darryl And Tracy Strawberry

Darryl Strawberry was a prodigious home run hitter who won four World Series as a member of the New York Mets and New York Yankees. The retired baseball great was also the National League Rookie of the Year in 1983 as well as an 8-time All-Star over the course of his storybook career. Today, Darryl's purpose and passion is serving the Lord by speaking a message of hope and by helping others transform their lives through the power of the gospel.

His wife, Tracy, has a true passion to equip individuals to live out a life of freedom and purpose in Christ. An ordained minister, her powerful but practical systematic teachings outline the steps of how a person can achieve change and live a victorious life through the



CELEBRITY INTERVIEW

by Kam Williams

Tracy Strawberry: Yes.

KW: You know I just got off the phone with somebody you might know, Mike and Sherry Pittman, publishers of the Capital City Courier, one of the papers I write for.

Tracy: We sure do!

Darryl: Of course! Wonderful, wonderful friends!

KW: What inspired you to write The Imperfect Marriage?

to go public with so much of your private life?

Darryl: Because everything has such a hidden agenda now a days. We're living in a toxic world and people are falling apart. The most important thing is becoming honest about your life and who you are. That's the only way you're going to be able to get well and stay well. We believe that. It doesn't matter what anyone else thinks. The most important thing is that we're in a healthy marriage.

Tracy: Also, when you're honest about your own things, it draws people in and allows them to let down their own guard, and to be



Tracy and Darryl Strawberry

sense of hope. There are practical applications. We keep it real. We're living in a time when people are facing real hardships and real heartaches, so we talk about ours in the hope that they can overcome theirs as well. The idea is to encourage them, help them, and to give them practical applications about how they can overcome.

KW: I see that you opened the Darryl Strawberry Recovery Center in Florida earlier this year. Is that for athletes?

Darryl: Yes, a treatment center in St. Cloud with a 12-Step program not just for athletes, but for anyone with substance abuse problems.

We come from addiction, and we know that addiction destroys lives. We just hope people understand that they can be restored whatever their condition is.

KW: How do you like life away from the limelight?

Darryl: Living in the Midwest has been a blessing for us, because of who we are. We're in Tracy's hometown. And we're ordained ministers whose purpose is informing people about the love of Jesus and getting them to realize that Christ is what's most important. Life here is simple, and not so complicated, and I think that's what we enjoy more than anything.

KW: It must have been hard achieving so much fanfare while still in your teens. And in New York, no less.

Darryl: It's a lot, no question about it. Playing in a place like New York is very difficult and challenging. But I'm truly blessed to have a happy life today after going there and playing there and overcoming so much adversity. And I'm grateful for my wife and all that she brings to the table in terms of helping me become a better man. I didn't put it all together until Tracy came into my life and we came together as a team. And I'm also thank-

See CELEBRITY on page 11

When you sit down to write a book like this, you have to have your own self together first

power of God and by actively engaging in the process of change.

Tracy's hard hitting, spirit-filled, sermons have touched men and women of all ages. She teaches Biblical truth with practical application to deliver a message of faith, redeeming hope, restoration and freedom. She believes that through the Word of God and the Power of The Holy Spirit those who are lost will be found and those who are bound will be free.

Here, they talk about their faith-based relationship advice book, The Imperfect Marriage.

Kam Williams: Hi Darryl and Tracy, thanks for the time. I'm honored to have this opportunity to speak with you.

Darryl Strawberry: Thank you for having us, Kam.

Tracy: Well, there's an overwhelming demand coming from people looking for answers in their marriages. And Darryl and I have overcome adultery... addiction... losing everything... blended families... so many issues. And our marriage has survived. The big question we get from so many people is: How did you do it? This book is a journey through how we did it, and how others can do it, too.

Darryl: And when you sit down to write a book like this, you have to have your own self together first. In making a troubled marriage work, the first thing you have to do is look not at your partner, but at your own self, in order to get to a place where you can get well, and then the two of you can come together.

KW: Why did you decide

honest about their own situations. Our goal here is to encourage people by saying: If we can make it, so can you. It's not to just leave them with a false



Oregon Historical Society

VANPORT MULTIMEDIA PROJECT
Oral History and Media Production Workshop

SEPTEMBER 13-14 and OCTOBER 4-5

To interview a Vanport survivor, or to capture a family member's or your own memories



APPLY NOW

North Portland Multimedia Training Center, The Skanner Newsgroup
415 N. Killingsworth St., Portland, OR 97217 | 503-285-5555 x 521

For more information, visit our website: www.npmtc.com or contact:

Project Director, Laura Lo Forti at laura.loforti@gmail.com or cell phone: (510) 717-2441

The North Portland Multimedia Training Center is a project of The Skanner Foundation. We thank our sponsors: The Oregon Community Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, and the Multnomah County Cultural Coalition.

Upcoming Special Issue

Minority Business Enterprise publishes
Sept. 24, 2014



The 2014 issue focuses on transportation industry opportunities.

Reserve Ad Space Today!

503-285-5555 | advertising@theskanner.com