



PHOTO: SVETLANA CHRISTIAN

DARE TO DREAM— A Better Way to Live

by Shelley Quinn

Dr. Yvonne Lewis (now Yvonne Shelton) arrived at 3ABN in 2010 to be interviewed, unaware God had a greater plan in store. As staff visited with her afterwards, it became apparent to all she possessed “3ABN DNA”—the special qualities we look for in hiring personnel—and was God’s choice to spearhead an urban network we had struggled to launch. When we presented her the challenge, God poured His passion for the project into Yvonne’s heart. She immediately began working to make the dream a reality, eventually moving to southern Illinois to join our staff.

A NETWORK IS BORN

3ABN Dare to Dream Network launched in January, 2011, with Yvonne serving as general manager. The network targets inner city residents with the gospel of Jesus Christ and practical tools for living, featuring programs that address the issues of crime, poverty, substance abuse, chronic health

concerns, and the erosion of the family unit, from a spiritual perspective.

From the time of her arrival, it was obvious Yvonne was a woman of prayer. She enlisted us as prayer partners for the urban outreach, and for her sons’ return to Christ. God breathed life first into the network, and three years later, into her finally surrendered sons. When her younger son Jason accepted an invitation to visit 3ABN, he was—like his mother before him—completely unaware a first-time visit would be life-changing.

It was January, 2014, when Jason joined us for our Annual Day of Prayer—a time of devotion, reflection, and “vision casting” for the New Year. 3ABN founder, Danny Shelton, addressed staff and visitors, concluding, “If you leave this place and can’t get it out of your mind, perhaps this is where God wants you to be.” Those words would echo in Jason’s mind—it was the call of God on his life!

A CLOSE CALL

Jason shares, “After attending college, I entered the hospitality industry, and worked seventy hours a week, managing a sports bar in Atlanta, Georgia. Seeking money and the party life, I enjoyed it all for a short time. But the mental and emotional pain that resulted wasn’t worth it. A brush with the law, and facing a possible 15-year prison sentence on a drug charge, was a wake-up call.

“An unseen hand guided me through the aftermath, and I escaped the crushing consequences of the devil’s clutches. Focused on staying out of trouble, I modified my behavior and altered my lifestyle, but still without the Lord. I had a deep emptiness within. I recognized my need of God. That’s the starting point. If you don’t realize you have a problem and need divine help, your life just keeps going in the same unhealthy circles. Suddenly, I reached a turning point—I had an urge to turn to God and serve Him, as my mother had taught me from childhood.

“After my first visit, I couldn’t get 3ABN out of my mind. Danny’s words pulled at me like nothing ever had before. I hate quitting a job, but I phoned Mom and told her I believed God was calling me to 3ABN. I submitted my resume, interviewed with Mollie Steenson, and was offered a job as Mom’s greatly needed assistant. I resigned from my Atlanta job that paid twice as much, joined the 3ABN staff, and have never looked back.”

Jason developed a personal devotional life, immersing himself daily in Bible study, and learning to depend upon God in prayer. He listened intently to the speakers and hosts on the Dare to Dream Network as he worked side-by-side with his mother to produce programs like *Salvation in Symbols and Signs*, *Urban*

Report, *Dollars and Sen\$e*, *Take it to the Bank*, *Pure Choices*, *Pumped Up Parents*, *A Father’s Heart*, *Workin’ the Dream*, *Live to be Well*, and *Creative Cooking*. Soon, he was hosting programs, involved in prison ministry, preaching at churches, and speaking at universities.

DARE TO DREAM - A BETTER WAY TO LIVE

In September of 2018, Jason Bradley assumed the position of General Manager for the Dare to Dream Network, which is available on YouTube, or on streaming devices such as Roku, Amazon Fire TV, and mySDAtv. Dare to Dream can also be viewed using our free 3ABN app on smartphones or tablets, and streamed from d2dnetwork.tv or Truli.com.

“My passion to show people a better way to live is generated by what the Lord did in my own life,” Jason asserts. “He lifted me from the pit and put my feet on higher ground. People are hurting and searching for answers, and they need to know the basics of connecting personally with God and leading a fundamentally sound life. Dare to Dream exists to lead people to Christ, to provide resources that will empower them to break negative behavioral patterns, and uplift communities around the world.” ☺



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Yvonne Shelton and her son Jason Bradley (right) interview Pastor Edward & Xinia Bryan on the set of *Urban Report*.