

Hospitality and Support
for People on
Georgia's Death Row
and Their Families



PO Box 1213
Griffin, GA 30224
404-273-0621
www.newhopehousega.org

GOD IS IN THE DETAILS

By Mary Catherine Johnson

The idiom "God is in the details" is often attributed to the German architect, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. With his buildings, there are no accidents – every corner, every material, every color, inside and out, has been specially designed to be a part of an esthetic whole, and no detail is too small to be considered. I thought of that quote recently when a death row family member told me, following an extended stay at New Hope House, that he felt the presence of God in our guest space. He mentioned how comfortable he felt among the numerous renderings of angels adorning the walls, and the super-soft rugs and blankets, and the popcorn containers and hot cocoa mugs he used while watching movies on the big-screen television.



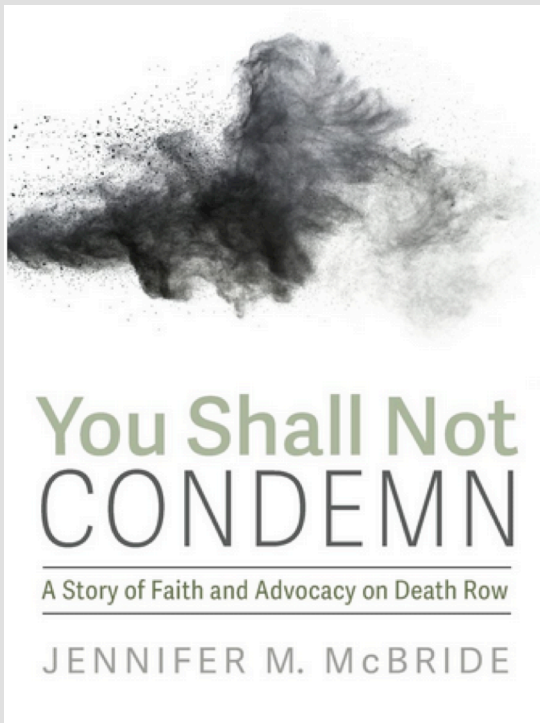
When death row families arrive at New Hope House, it is not unusual for them to be overcome with emotion when they first enter our guest space. I can't help but join them in that moment of emotional release, when the cruelties and hardships of having a loved one on death row meet God's love and acceptance in the form of a welcome sign picturing their loved one, food and beverages selected with their tastes in mind, artworks that offer assurances of God's love, and soft, lovely furnishings that invite them to relax and lay their burdens down. And I know that our guests also feel all of the love that our extended community provides through gifts, donations, encouragement, time, and prayers – love that infuses every detail of our beautiful new house.



It is my great privilege and honor to accompany death row families during moments of joy, as well as moments of sadness and grief. In recent months I have traveled to south Georgia to help a family scatter the ashes of their mother in the St. Mary's River (above right and center); I drove a family to visit the grave of their executed loved one to commemorate his birthday (above); and I hosted a family that came all the way from Puerto Rico to visit their loved one on death row for the first time since the pandemic began (right). I treasure these moments that bring me closer to the families and to God, and I remain humbled and deeply grateful for the support provided by the New Hope House community to make them possible.

~Mary Catherine





Purchase your copy on *Amazon.com*, or receive a 10% discount through The Cathedral Bookstore of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta at *Bookshop.org*.

~ YOU'RE INVITED ~

Please join us for our **2023 COMMUNITY BOOK READ!** Experience the extraordinary story of Kelly Gissendaner, the only woman on Georgia's death row until her execution in 2015, through *You Shall Not Condemn* by Jennifer McBride.

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

Read the book!

FALL 2023

Gather in-person in Atlanta or on Zoom from anywhere (date and location TBA) to discuss the book and meet the author, Jennifer McBride, and others involved in Kelly Gissendaner's story.

For event updates and to sign up for email notifications, visit www.newhopehousega.org.

Co-sponsored by **New Hope House** and **Georgians For Alternatives to the Death Penalty (GFADP)**

I am so excited to share this amazing book with the New Hope House community. It is very close to my heart for many reasons, including my deep and nurturing friendship with its author, Jenny McBride (on the left with me, in the photo to the right). Many people ask me how I am able to keep doing this difficult work year after year, after facing more than 30 executions, and this book embodies some of the answers to that inquiry through its beautiful exploration of its central question: How do we understand *hope* in the context of Kelly Gissendaner's execution?

~Mary Catherine Johnson, New Hope House



HOW TO DONATE TO NEW HOPE HOUSE

You can use the enclosed envelope to send a CHECK PAYABLE TO NEW HOPE HOUSE, or donate online through our website and these applications:

www.newhopehousega.org

PAYPAL: Look for Possum Trot Ministries or newhopehousega@yahoo.com

VENMO: @NewHopeHouseGA

CASH APP: \$NewHopeHouseGA

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SPRING 2023

OUR MINISTRY

New Hope House is a Christian community offering hospitality to families of people on Georgia's death row and support to people whose family members are involved in death penalty trials. We also visit people on death row and work to replace the death penalty with just alternatives.

New Hope House is part of Possum Trot Ministries, a nonprofit (501c4) organization. We are financially dependent on gifts (not tax deductible).

CONTACT NEW HOPE HOUSE:

Mary Catherine Johnson
404-273-0621
mcjohnson78@yahoo.com



BRINGING JOY TO DEATH ROW FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Check out these beautiful people who gathered at our new duplex in Jackson to assemble the **2022 Murphy Davis Christmas Packages for Georgia's Death Row!** The packages got rave reviews from the guys on death row – they especially loved the microwave popcorn and the big bag of holiday chocolates.