

Coach: felt called to author book

From A1

"Every year we have more students who deal with suicide, depression and anxiety attacks," Hilliard said. "The book is about dealing with those things and trying to fight off what attacks and destroys our mental health."

Hilliard first encountered his desire to help others when he was a high school history teacher. He recalled having a female student who was struggling through issues in school, and he was asked to help. She became his "adopted daughter" and he mentored her and became a father figure. She began to bring her friends to Maurice and he became a type of counselor for the group of young women. As he mentored the students, he saw his life come full circle,

and he was finally able to help someone in the way that he wanted to help his mother growing up.

Hilliard does not consider himself a writer by nature. The former basketball coach felt he was awakened to write a book after a personal dream where God called him to help others. In this dream, a line of people gathered to eat out of Hilliard's hands.

"I knew I had to feed people and I knew the way to feed them was to write" Hilliard said. "In the dream, I was feeding a line of people, and I remember thinking, 'This is a long line and it's going to take a long time to feed everyone.' Then I heard a voice from Heaven saying, 'If you write, you can feed them all.'"

This first book is targeted toward girls, but another book is in the works

that will discuss the difficulties that men encounter in their lives. Though both books will rely on the same principles of dealing with life's difficult situations, Hilliard explained that the way that men respond to change is not as open as women.

"Guys are different in how they communicate," Hilliard said. "I'm fine, I'm good, I'm tough." It's different when you're trying to help a guy develop into a man.

So far, he has received many positive responses for "The Price of a Pearl" from women who have been rescued from human trafficking.

"I wrote the book for college-aged women. But what happened was that when I sent it out to get feedback, I saw that [the book] was bringing a reconciliation from women who had

horrible experiences with men, which was something I didn't expect," Hilliard said.

Within the book, there are personal testimonies from women that Hilliard helped over the years, as the athletic chaplain. Scripture is another tool used to guide the pages. Students at Pepperdine will have the chance to read and discuss those struggles along with their own during an impending club convocation centered around "The Price of a Pearl."

Maurice hopes that the contents of his book will help women to deal with the parasites present in their lives. As stated by Hilliard's book, "no matter how you feel at this very moment, you are in the process of becoming a beautiful pearl."

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