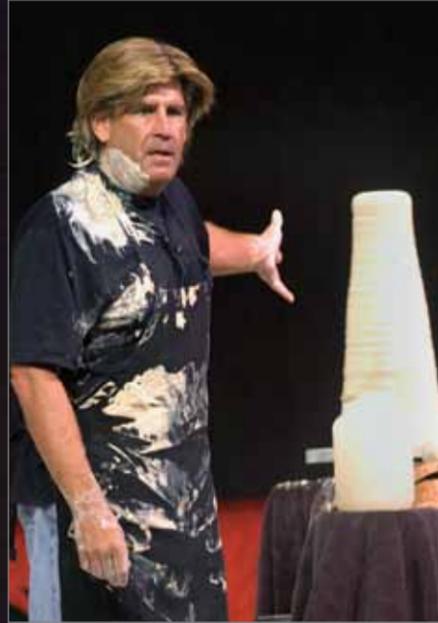
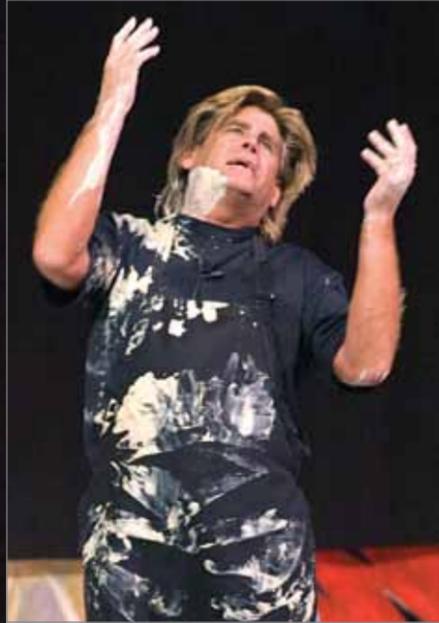


POTTER'S FIELD MINISTRIES



Michael Rozell shares his and his wife Pam's personal testimonies of salvation, emotional healing, and marital restoration. After centering the clay on the wheel, Michael emphasizes the importance of living centered on Jesus Christ.

*Story by Debra Smith
Photos by Geraldine Wilkins*

Wet clay splattered as Michael carefully applied pressure to the lump on his potter's wheel. Pressing his cheek and shoulder against its cold surface, Michael felt the clay slowly begin to yield to his constant touch. His once-black shirt was soon covered with a chalky mess, but the potter was oblivious to anything but his creation. As he worked, his wife Pam's soprano voice washed over the sanctuary, proclaiming forgiveness through Christ's blood. The clay grew taller as Michael pressed it into a thin cylinder. Rolling up his sleeve, he carefully pushed his arm down into the center of the clay.

Pottery, music, and stories interplayed for the next hour. Michael's vase took shape as Pam's songs, written during the arduous turns of their personal journey, opened a window into their lives. A brilliant red vase was emerging with intricate designs around the rim. Michael again inserted his hand to perfect its shape. Suddenly, the top of the vase collapsed, and the audience gasped. Quickly grabbing a knife, Michael sliced off the misshapen clay.



After destroying the large vase, Michael makes a larger bowl that he explains can hold more spiritual fruit. He is demonstrating that if we submit to Christ, God will make us into the vessel He has seen from before the foundations of the earth.



As Pam sings "Crimson Flow," a song she wrote about the redeeming blood of Christ, Michael pours a crimson stain over the bowl.

And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. ... "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD.

Jeremiah 18:4, 6a

As Pam continued to sing, Michael's spinning clay began to take the shape of a bowl. "I was never making the vase. I've always been making the bowl," declared Michael.

When life has a similar sense of collapse, he explained, God is breaking and remolding us. As we live centered on Him even when life feels shattered, He forms us according to His desires. "This relationship between the potter and the clay is more than a demonstration. It's reality," he proclaimed. "The clay is man, the Potter is God, and the wheel, the circumstances of life. The more you allow the Potter to stretch you, the more fruit you will hold."

Potter's Field Is Plowed

Michael and Pam gave their first presentation in 1992 at a women's retreat. At the



Michael teaches from Jeremiah 18 that God is the Potter and we are the clay.

request of their pastor's wife, Diane Coy, Michael made a pot while Pam sang. The songs she composed for the event were the first she had written in more than 10 years—since leaving her Christian roots in the early 1980s. "Where I was raised, everybody goes to church," said Pam. "But I never walked personally with Jesus." Crowned Miss Georgia at age 18 and distracted by many more musical successes over the next several years, Pam gradually walked away from God.

In 1987, Pam was headlining in *42nd Street* in southern California when a friend from

the show set Michael and Pam up on a blind date. Pam said that within two hours, "I knew I was going to marry him. I could see that his heart was beautiful." Two days later, Michael proposed; in three weeks, they flew to Las Vegas and got married. Just three days afterward, a friend invited Michael to CC Costa Mesa. He had never been in a church, and that evening Michael was dramatically impacted as Pastor Raul Ries presented the Gospel. Pam arrived home after her show to find a dozen roses and a husband insisting she come to church with him on Wednesday evening. Pam rededicated her life to the Lord at that service. Five years would pass before their first demonstration about the potter and the clay.

Potter's Field Is Planted

At their first presentation, "The Holy Spirit was so thick in that place," remarked Pam, "that I knew we were created for this from the foundations of the earth." Their lifestyle was comfortable and secure: Pam was a headline entertainer on seven cruise lines, and Michael was a regional marketing director for a Wall Street firm. But Pam knew that God was moving them in a new direction.

"She has this crazy leap of faith streak," recounted Michael. "She called her agent and told her not to sign any more contracts because she was going into ministry." That weekend Pam discovered Keith Green's biography, *No Compromise*. She devoured

the book and prayed, "Lord, I want a ministry like Keith's." Within a few days their pastor challenged Michael to consider the deepest desires of his heart. Realizing that pottery was what God had created him to do, he left his job.

"The Lord told me that He would guide and provide," reported Michael. "Though I had a marketing background, we knew there would be no marketing in our ministry." The Rozells soon received a phone call from a 700 Club producer. He had found a brochure about the Potter's Field demonstration wadded up in a parking lot. Allotted three specials a year, he had two booked and had been praying about his third. He was calling to schedule the Rozells. "That man picking up that piece of paper changed our lives forever," recounted Michael. After appearing on TV, Michael and Pam's presentation was in demand with churches all across the country.

Potter's Field Is Pruned

But all along, according to the Rozells, there were underlying problems in their marriage. Michael said his lifelong "sense of rejection and abandonment, of not feeling purpose and value," led to constant marital conflict. "Pam would say, 'Would you turn the noodles down so they don't burn?' and I'd hear it as, 'Get out of the kitchen, you rotten cook,'" explained Michael. These feelings of inadequacy bubbled over into rage and verbal abuse. "I needed healing," he said.



After Pam unveils Michael's masterpiece—a 150-pound, gold-embellished pot which has successfully gone through the fire six times—he explains the potter's pleasure when a pot endures the fire without shattering. In

relating the story of the pot's firing, he reveals that it's in the fires of life that humans can most clearly reflect their heavenly Potter.



Pam hugs Beanca Idrogo, an 18-year-old who accepted Christ this past June at Calvary Worship Center in Colorado Springs, CO. Beanca gave her life to the Lord after hearing Michael and Pam share their testimonies of His transforming power in their lives.



Pam plays with a group of children who gathered around her after the service.



Michael encourages a believer who was impacted by the presentation.

Though Pam desired to leave at times, her commitment to marriage was strong. She endured and prayed fervently for Michael's healing. "My knees got worn out," recounted Pam. "I learned what intercession was." The Rozells were now living in Florida and attending CC Fort Lauderdale. Their pastor, Bob Coy, sensed Michael's anger and took action. "He removed me from ministry," said Michael. "He told me I needed to go sit in the lap of Jesus."

As Michael sought the Lord, he was stirred by the story of the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda. "The catalyst was John 5:6," he explained, "where Jesus asks, 'Do you want to be healed?' I realized I was like him, paralyzed on a mat, and I didn't really know the Lord—not enough to recognize Jesus was offering to heal me. I had been ignoring Him because I didn't know who was asking and because I just felt comfortable remaining angry. But that weekend, I felt the Lord beckoning me to pick up my mat—He wanted to heal me." That night, Pam anointed Michael with oil and held him while he cried. A dramatic healing began. Since that day in 1995, recounted Pam, Michael has never had a rage fit. "There's still hurt, even anger sometimes, but I don't rage any more," said Michael.

Potter's Field Bears Fruit

Since then, "I have watched my husband turn into the most incredibly godly man," reported Pam. And now, after 17 years of ministry, the Rozells' testimony to the power of the Potter's hand has impacted countless lives and marriages. When Frank Mottola

of Southern California first saw Michael and Pam's demonstration in 2005, "My life changed dramatically," reported Frank. "Life was in disarray; my wife and I had been separated for a few weeks, and she had initiated divorce proceedings."

As Michael shared that evening, "I felt like he was telling my story, there were so many parallels," recorded Frank. When Michael invited attendees to accept Jesus, Frank sprang to the front. Michael prayed with him, and the Rozells stayed long afterward offering counsel. Pam gave Frank a CD that included the song "Soften My Heart," which she had written during the difficult days of their own marriage. She advised Frank to pray that the Lord would soften his wife's heart so it wouldn't close off to him. "I listened to that song a lot," said Frank.

During this season, Frank and his wife Julia met periodically to pass off their daughters. "When he told me that he had gotten saved, I didn't really believe him," recounted Julia. "I thought he was just telling me what I wanted to hear." Instead of pressuring her, Frank followed the Rozells' advice and focused on maturing in his new life with the Lord. He joined a men's discipleship group that met daily at 6:00 a.m.

Frank eventually gave Pam's CD to Julia. Unwilling to play it at first, she listened to it months later only after noticing a transformation in Frank. As he had prayed for her, using the words of "Soften My Heart," her heart had opened. "That song was key,"

said Julia. "I imagined what life would be in 10 years if I didn't soften my heart. I knew I didn't want to be that angry, bitter person."

After five months apart, Frank invited Julia to church. It was her first time in a church since their separation. Both of them were astounded at the sermon topic: Forgiveness. One month later, on Julia's birthday, Frank stood in front of the congregation and re-proposed to her. She accepted and canceled their pending divorce. They renewed their vows on New Year's Eve 2005—the 14th anniversary of their original wedding.

Michael and Pam continue to share their demonstration about the Potter and the clay at churches, and they direct the Global Impact Program at Potter's Field Ranch in Whitefish, MT. They also minister to children in El Salvador, Uganda, and the Philippines through orphanages and after-school programs.



Frank and Julia Mottola

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