



Comment, Blog & Share Photos

Log in | Become a member | Search people

POWERED BY YOU AND THE Observer & Eccentric Hometown

Local author tells story to Oprah

BY DARRELL CLEM • OBSERVER STAFF WRITER • FEBRUARY 11, 2010

Comments(0) Recommend Print this page E-mail this article Share Type Size A A A

Canton author Gregg Tyler Milligan, who revealed a painful childhood of abuse by his own mother in *A Beautiful World*, said he hopes to reach out to other victims when he appears on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

Milligan, still plagued by vivid memories of sexual abuse, emotional torture and physical beatings, said Winfrey's producers this week arranged to fly him to Chicago, where he was to tape a show Wednesday with Winfrey in front of a live audience.

Milligan was awaiting word on when the segment will air on television.

"My main concern and hope is that I help more people this way than through any other possible medium," Milligan, 46, said. "That's really what I'm excited about."

A film crew visited Milligan last week in Michigan to compile footage for the Oprah segment.

"The crew visit went very well," he said, describing himself as "emotionally drained, but it was well worth it."

In his first media interview, Milligan told his story last fall to the *Canton Observer*, describing a horrific childhood that still triggers panic attacks, chronic nightmares and anxiety disorder even though he succeeded in academics, athletics, the military and corporate America.

ABC News later interviewed him, and he continued to draw attention until Winfrey's producers found him through his involvement as a speaker with RAJNN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network), billed as the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization.

Milligan originally thought of titling his book *God Must Be Sleeping*, but he decided on *A Beautiful World* because, despite a childhood that still haunts him, he found good people who helped him. He also said he found beauty through his own family, including his young adult son.

Milligan's appearance on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* will bring untold exposure to his story and his book, which is available along with other information through the Web site www.abeautifulwrlld.com — without the letter "o" in "world."

Milligan said his primary goal is to help others learn how they can find help if they are being abused. He said he wants to bring a message of hope during his talk with Winfrey.

"My main concern is helping others reach out for help," he said.



Canton author Gregg Milligan, here with his wife, Sarah, is scheduled to be in Chicago Wednesday to tape a segment with Oprah Winfrey. (photos by Bill Bresler | staff photographer)