



Candace

Photograph by Mikel Healy Photography

This month, one of America's Hollywood sweethearts is speaking to hundreds of Atlanta women near the Mall of Georgia. This sweetheart is Candace Cameron Bure, best known for her role as D.J. Tanner on ABC's sitcom "Full House." Although she left her husband, the famous Russian hockey player Valeri Bure, at home with their three young children in order to share a little time with the women of Atlanta, apparently it is family that best captures the TV star's heart strings these days. We caught up with Candace for a quick interview while she was here.

CL: Welcome to Hotlanta, Candace. Most of us remember your amazing eight-year run on "Full House," one of the most successful TV series of all time; but now you've got your own full house! Tell us about your family.

Candace: Sure. My husband has recently retired from his hockey career, and he is now able to take care of our children—ages 4, 6 and 8—in our South Florida home. This frees me to travel a bit more and to do a few things, career-wise, that were on hold for awhile. But my family is definitely my first priority.

CL: Tell us about what life was like as a child star in Hollywood.

Candace: It was fun and pretty stable because of my parents. I started acting at the same time my brother, Kirk, did due to the encouragement of my mom's friend, whose kids were doing commercials. My dad was a middle school teacher, and my mom was a stay-at-home mother. But within a few years, they had two kids on top ten television shows! It was wacky and great fun, but my parents were cool about everything.

Fame wasn't important to them. That's why we were so grounded. Many parents had stars in eyes, but my parents could easily say "no" to us. They basically said, "Have fun acting, but you can't have all the other junk, or you're out. It's over." We knew they meant it.

separated when I was little. They tell their story in my mom's book, "A Full House of Growing Pains."

When I was twelve, a friend invited me to church, and that same year I prayed the "Sinner's prayer." My life wasn't changed or transformed, however.



Photograph by David Decoteau

The Bures currently consist of: Val, Candace, Natasha, Lev and Maksim. There is also Sydney (Rottweiler), and Emma (Cocker Spaniel).

CL: Did you grow up in a Christian home?

Candace: Mom has been a believer since she was a little girl. She taught us the Golden Rule, and kindness, but Dad didn't want anything to do with religion. My parents had a troubled marriage and

I truly believed that if I was a good person, everything would be okay. Not until I was in my early twenties did it become about a relationship with Christ.

CL: What role did Kirk play in your Christian walk?

Candace: Kirk was slated to star

By Lisa A. Rice

Cameron Bure

TV Star Speaks Candidly about Faith & Family

in “Left Behind,” and he sent me that book. He said, “You’ve got to read this book. It’ll really speak to you.” I read it and saw how the character Bruce Barnes got left behind (after the rapture). I said, “How could a pastor get left behind?” That question kicked off my faith.

Kirk had come to Christ at age seventeen and had gotten good teaching from Ray Comfort’s “The Way of the Master.” This teaching really changed his walk, as it opened his eyes to the sin in his life. He said, “Now I understand the gospel. It’s not about being good!”

I came to that realization as well. Many churches present such a light message and teach only love, mercy, and grace. But God is a judge; there is a hell; there are consequences to our sin. That’s what made me understand that I wanted to walk in that righteous path and not just keep assuming I was fine.

CL: How did you meet Valeri, and does he share your faith?

Candace: We met at a hockey game... a celebrity charity game. I found out that he used to watch “Full House” to learn English... I had been teaching him English! We found that we were only two years apart in age, and there was an instant physical attraction... I thought he was cute, and we exchanged numbers. Actually, I gave him my number on a blank check. Now, we’ve been married for ten years.

At first Valeri wasn’t a believer, so I prayed every day for his salvation. But God showed me it was in closing my mouth that he would be won. I was talking about God so much I was turning him off—big time. He said, “I don’t want you to talk about God. If I want to know something I’ll ask you.” I took a few good Bible studies like “Excellent Wife” and “Created to be His Helpmeet,” and soon my husband could see the changes Christ had worked in me. He said, “Maybe there’s something to all this.”

CL: And now you’re speaking at churches, colleges and outreach events, sharing your testimony and Christian faith. What is the burning message on your heart?

Candace: Definitely evangelism, but I still feel inadequate in this area. I find

it easier to speak to a group of two thousand than to witness to one person on an airplane. I also have a heart for missions.

CL: Tell us why you jump through hoops to make family a priority.

Candace: A while back, God showed me that I needed to make some changes to become the wife that my husband needed. He’s refocused me on all the things I didn’t know were that important. Career wise, there was a point where the door wasn’t opening, and through this God was saying, “You need to stay home with your kids.” I’m glad I did. It’s my children’s eternity that’s at stake, and that’s far more important than anything else I could do. It is such a privilege to stay at home... As hard as it is to cook, clean and not have adult conversations, I want to train my kids in the Lord. I long for the day I see my children come to Christ... make the decision for themselves.

Directing them toward this is my God-given responsibility. I think of the magnitude of it... what God has given me with these little kids. It puts it all in perspective. Our society says, “Work! Make money! The career is great! But stay-at-home moms, you’re not so cool. Get going... You’re not doing that much.” But they’re wrong. I realize how neat it is to be a parent, and I love it more and more each year. I do have a balance. I like to travel and speak, and I did play a little role in an upcoming movie, “The Wager,” with Randy Travis, but God helps me keep my heart in the right place.

Candace Cameron Bure goes to Calvary Chapel in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

For further information, please visit Candace at www.Wager-themovie.com or www.Candacecameronbure.net.

