

Pamela M. Mines

Author | Entrepreneur | Mother | Special Needs Advocate



Media Kit

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Meet the Author

Pamela Michelle Mines, is a true example that with perseverance, hard work and faith; anything is possible. After receiving a certification in both Early Childhood Development and Early Childhood Education from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Pam's career began as a Nanny for multiple prominent Richmond, Virginia families. She later went on to assume the roles of Educational Coordinator for Children's World Learning Center, Program Director for the Creative Learning Center for Children, and her dream position of Program Director for Christian based Destiny Child Development Center (DCDC - an affiliate of The Saint Paul's Baptist Church in Richmond, VA).

As the head of DCDC, Pam felt a strong sense of accomplishment and security. It was at that time that her husband Perry stepped out on faith and left his job to pursue Luv'em Like MINES Youth Services, Inc., a company that Pam and Perry started to help and mentor at-risk youth between the ages of 5 and 21 years old. Happily married, a mother of two, and her career exactly where she wanted it, Pam felt that she was on top of the world. However, during Christmas of 2004, Pam received devastating news that she had lost her dream job. Pam's world was now turned upside down.

Out of work, with a husband and two small children, Pam had no time to sulk. She and Perry knew they had to rely on faith and immediately made adjustments to make ends meet. Within a few short months, Luv'em Like MINES Youth Services began to flourish. Things were suddenly looking up for Pam and her family, until 6 months later during her son's 1 year check up, a nurse practitioner noticed that her son James Perry (JP) was showing signs of a slight developmental delay. Concerned, but not completely convinced that there was reason to be alarmed, the nurse asked Pam and Perry to come back in a month if JP still did not show signs of typical 1 year old behavior. Immediately, Pam's "mommy heart" knew that her son had Autism. One month later, JP was officially diagnosed with a developmental delay. He was immediately enrolled in Chesterfield County's Early Intervention Program; 1 ½ years after that, he was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. JP was 2 ½ years old.

Determined not to let JP's diagnosis get her down, Pam took what some might view as a devastating situation, and turned it into nothing less than a blessing and a calling. Pam, Perry, and daughter Michelle all embraced JP's diagnosis. They vowed to make sure Autism did not "run" their household; ensuring that the difference between Autism and typical childhood behavior was clearly established. Pam was very diligent in learning as much as she could about Autism, and quickly became an advocate and active member in the Autism Community. In 2007, Pam started the "JP Jumpers," a team of family, friends, and supporters who participate yearly in the Autism Society of America (Central Virginia Chapter) 5K run/walk and fundraiser. Today, Pam serves as a board member of the Autism Society of Central Virginia and is the Exceptional Education Liaison on the PTA at her son's elementary school. In addition, Pam has helped to raise thousands of dollars and increase awareness for a disorder that affects 1 in 110 children, (according to the most recent studies conducted by the Center for Disease Control – CDC).

By taking JP's diagnosis head on, and adopting a pro-active approach to raising a child with a disability, Pam decided to conquer what she deems as one of her greatest accomplishments yet. She has taken her experience and compassion as a mother of a special needs child, and written her 1st children's book entitled God Chose Me, an *Interactive Guide to Promote Family Building* (her daughter Michelle is the Illustrator). God Chose Me serves as a learning tool and guide for children with disabilities. It is equipped with bold colors (for color identification), sign language (for the non-verbal), repetition (to assist with learning), and pictorial hands on activities (to help with fine motor skills and person identification); all built to address the unique abilities of special needs children. Also included is Pam's core message of how all of those who have a special needs child in their life, were "chosen" to be there.

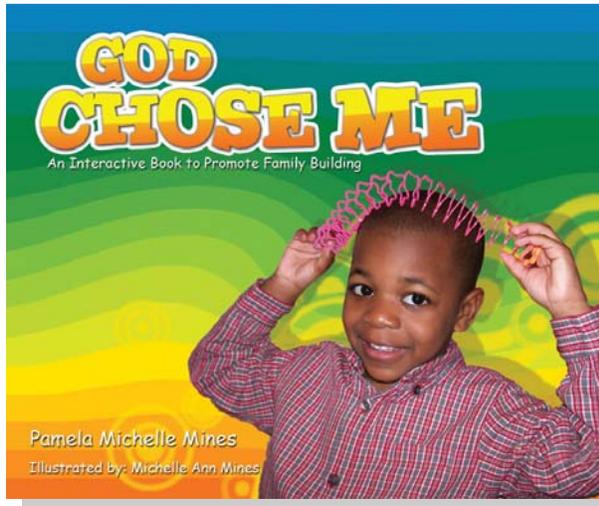
Pam and Perry understand and receive the fact that they were chosen by GOD to be Michelle and JP's parents. They feel blessed and grateful that GOD saw fit to trust them with such a tremendous responsibility. Pam continues to share her experience, knowledge, and enthusiastic approach to helping children with special needs and regularly speaks to other parents, therapists, school administrators, and more. This remarkable wife, mother, entrepreneur, advocate for children with special needs, and now author, hopes that by reading God Chose Me, the reader will be inspired, knowing that GOD chose them because of the many positive attributes they possess.

Please visit www.luvemlikeMINESpublishing.com to order a copy of God Chose Me. Pam will donate a portion of the proceeds from each book to the charity of the purchaser's choice.

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ABOUT GOD CHOSE ME



GOD CHOSE ME:

“An interactive Book to Promote Family Building”

Publication Date: January 2010

Cover Price: \$19.95

Trim Size: 8.25 x 10.75 | Paperback

Pages: 32

ISBN 13: 978-0-9825104-8-3

ISBN 10: 0-9825104-8-3

Categories: Children’s Book, Special Needs, Christian, Family, Education

Publisher: Kingdom Publishing Group, Inc.

Author: Pamela Michelle Mines

Illustrator: Michelle Ann Mines

Available at:

www.luvemlikeMINESpublishing.com

GOD CHOSE ME is an interactive Children’s book designed to encourage the growth and learning process of children with special needs.

GOD CHOSE ME is suitable for all learning styles, and features sign-language to teach non-verbal communication; bold colors, to teach color identification; hands on activities to increase hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills; the use of repetition in order to give the child a pattern to follow; and the ability to include and interchange your own photos in order to teach your child person identification.

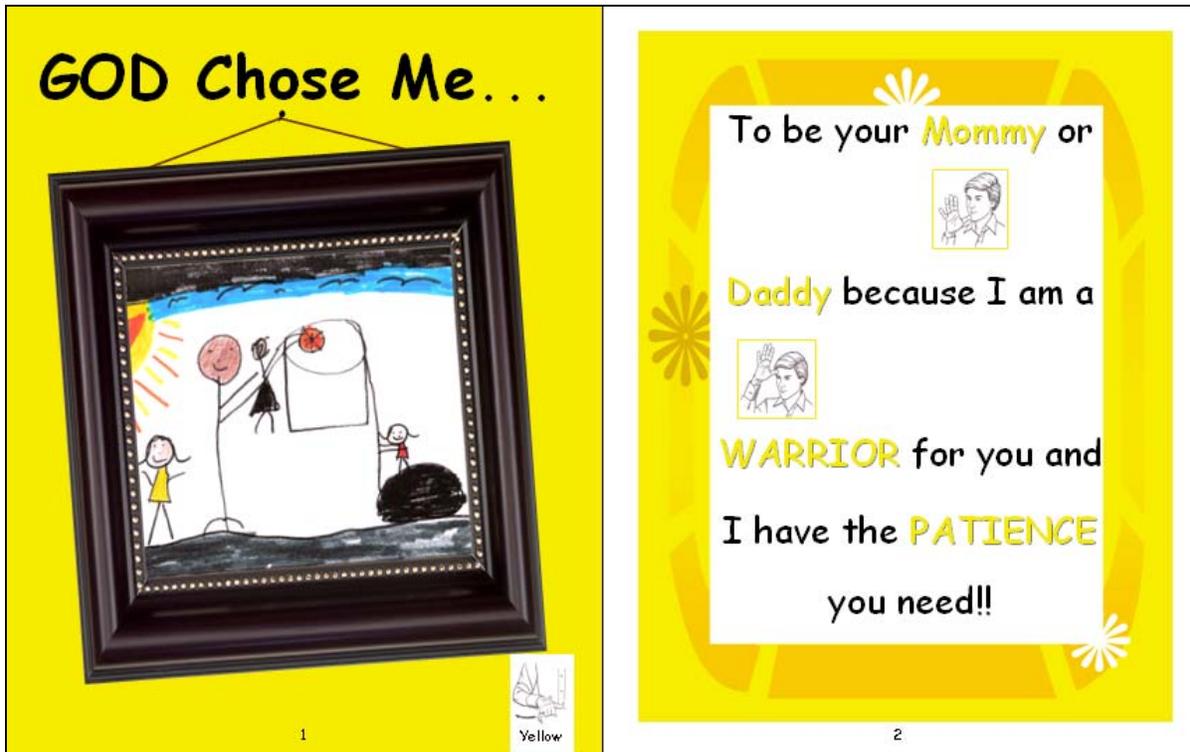
GOD CHOSE ME can be used by therapists, teachers, special needs ministries, support groups, families and more. Author and mother of a special needs child herself, Pam Mines, wrote **GOD CHOSE ME** to uplift and inspire families everywhere. It is her hope that **GOD CHOSE ME** serves as a reminder to those who have a special needs child in their life, that they were chosen.

*“Before your child was born, GOD put you in place so your child could have the best life possible, with the most supportive friends and family imaginable. View this life long opportunity as one of the greatest honors ever because**YOU WERE CHOSEN!**”*

~ Pam Mines, Author

To purchase **GOD CHOSE Me**, please visit www.luvemlikeMINESpublishing.com or call (804) 986-3274

Book Excerpt



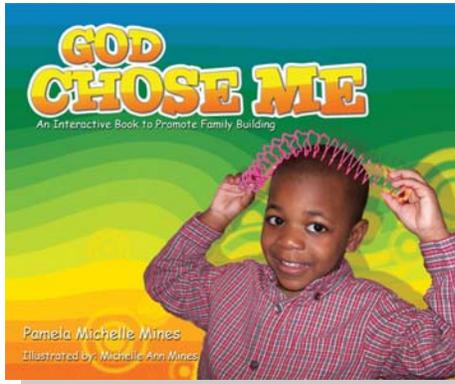
- **Bold Colors**
- **Sign Language**
- **Person Identification**
- **Personal Home Pictures can Replace Illustrations**



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REVIEWS



“I am very excited about the recent publishing of the book God Chose Me! I think the Author, Pam Mines, did an incredible job! The culmination of her life experiences, faith, and positive attitude, will be **INSPIRING** to readers! And the illustrations by her daughter, Michelle Mines, help bring the story to life. This book is exuberant, active, encouraging, motivating, and a valuable tool for parents, families, and educators. Congratulations Pam!”

Floyd E. Miller, M. Ed., Director of Urban Programs, Special Olympics Virginia

“God Chose Me is a wonderful tool to educate and bond with children. God Chose Me is an inspiring resource and teaching tool which can also be used to develop a child's sense of family and feelings relatives have for one another. The artwork is beautiful and children can

increase their ability to understand their roles within the family.”

Jennifer DeSanto, OTD, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist, Clin IV OT/RT Supervisor, Virginia Treatment Center for Children, VCU Medical Center

“My son & I love to read God Chose Me together. The first time I read the book I cried. It is a great reminder of why I was given a son who is differently-abled. Just like the book says...I was chosen to be his mother because “I am a warrior and have the patience” for him. Simply looking at the pictures & reading the interactive book reminds me and my son that we have the strength and determination to handle anything through God! I would recommend this book to all!”

Jennifer Barnum, Parent of a special needs child

“God Chose Me is a very heartfelt, fun, compassionate and inspiring resource not just for families of "differently-abled" individuals, but for the therapists' that work with them, as well. We especially enjoyed the interactive nature of the book, along with the many illustrations, vivid colors, signs and descriptive word usage. We look forward to using God Chose Me with our clients in our clinic!!! Job well done!!!”

Yolanda G. Fields, MS, CCC-SLP and Kia H. Symonds, MS, CCC-SLP with Speak Like Me, Inc.--Therapeutic Speech & Language Pathology Services

“God Chose Me is a book that recognizes the unique needs of individual learners. Applicable for children across environments and ages, this book is an eye opener for children, care givers, and service providers alike. God Chose Me is able to introduce an integrated approach to the social community that helps create a mindset of comprehensive services. This book is an asset that can be used across multiple domains. The author of God Chose Me created this book with forethought and insight, unique in many ways. The colors are engaging without being over-stimulating. The sign language is simplified and useful for a variety of learners. The binding allows for viewing single or multiple pages, allowing for in the moment modifications. Refreshing, engaging, thought provoking... God Chose Me!”

Contributed by a Teacher for students with Autism, Chester, VA

“For children with special needs, the support of family is essential to success. God Chose Me is a lovely teaching aid to help children identify family members and learn about family relationships. Attractive and helpful, the book is a valuable tool that parents can individualize with pictures of family members, and then read and enjoy with their children.”

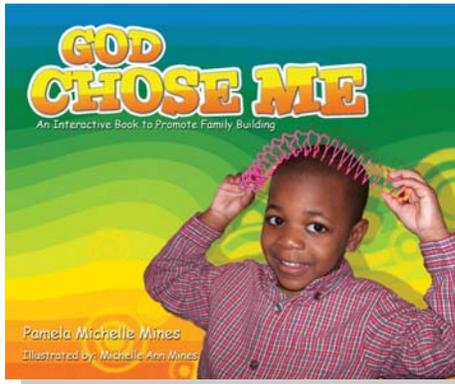
Donald Oswald, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University

To request an interview with Pam Mines, please contact Tracy M. Ross at tracy@trmpr.com or call (804) 986-3274

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Q: What inspired you to write [GOD CHOSE ME](#)?

Pam: Autism and people's response to that word is what inspired me to write [GOD CHOSE ME](#). Autism sounds like such a "BIG" word and it seems to intimidate so many people, especially family members. In my opinion, Autism is not your life, it's just a part of your life. So when I started thinking of other "BIG WORD" diagnosis like Down Syndrome, Intellectually Disabled, Developmental Delay, Cerebral Palsy, Visually Impaired, Hearing Impaired, etc., I figured [GOD CHOSE ME](#) could help the entire differently-abled community. Therefore, the book is inspired by Autism, but it is for all "Different-Abilities".

Q: Tell us about how you chose the title [GOD CHOSE ME](#)?

Pam: I chose the title [GOD CHOSE ME](#) because as the mother of my Princess, Michelle who is typically developed; and my Prince, James (affectionately known as JP), who is Autistic, I know without a shadow of a doubt that I was chosen to be their mother. I wanted everyone to know how proud and accepting I am of that awesome and God-appointed responsibility.

Q: In your experience, what do you feel are some of the learning difficulties that a child with special needs faces, and how will your book help with those difficulties?

Pam: I feel that a lot of times speech, basic cognition, communication, and fine motor skills are an issue for children with special needs. [GOD CHOSE ME](#) assist in all of these areas by teaching sign language for speech, bold colors, repetition for cognition and interactive photo exchange for fine motor skills.

Q: How did you and your husband Perry cope when you learned that JP was diagnosed with Autism?

Pam: Well, I think we went through the typical emotions and responses that most parents go through; denial, anxiety, embarrassment, shame, over-compensation, anger and grief. Once we got through those emotions, we went right into acceptance, joy, freedom, honored, blessed, happy, enthusiasm, student, and teacher. We are excited to give a different approach to raising a child with disabilities.

Q: You recently spoke to an Early Childhood Education Graduate Class at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. In what ways do you feel teachers can use [GOD CHOSE ME](#) in a classroom setting?

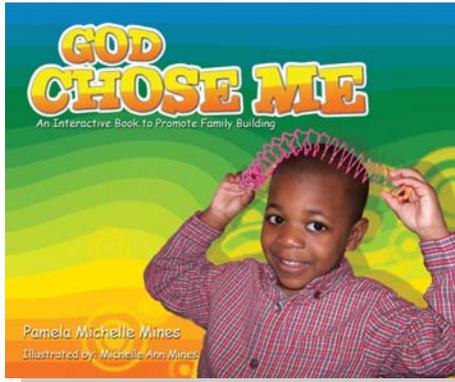
Pam: Teachers can use this book to help include the child's family in the school setting. As we know, school behavior and home behavior are two different things. By reading this book, you get to know members of the child's family. It will help bring the two worlds together allowing the family to feel involved at school even if they cannot be there.

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS *(continued)*



Q: What advice would you give to parent's of special needs children who might have a hard time accepting and/or adjusting to their child's disability?

Pam: Go through the emotions that may give you sad moments, then pull it together for your child. They need your positive spirit and energy. They need you to pray for them and yourselves and not be afraid to ask others to pray too. They need you to be their biggest advocate. Educate yourself on the disability and welcome it into your life so you can do and make the best decisions for your child as it relates to their disability. Expect great things from your child, do not sell them short because of their disability; it's only a part of them, not all of who they are. Understand fully that they need you!

Q: Why did you choose to have your daughter Michelle, be the illustrator for GOD CHOSE ME?

Pam: I chose to have Michelle be the illustrator of GOD CHOSE ME because I wanted the pictures to be child drawn. I wanted the illustrator to believe in the meaning of the book, have a differently-abled child in their life, and be sensitive and caring to that community. With that being said, Michelle was perfect for the job, even at just 6 years old. She is a wonderful big sister and a big supporter of JP and our family. Michelle worked hard on these pictures and took it very seriously. I am extremely proud of her. She did a remarkable job, and I don't know who could have done it better.

Q: What has your son taught you about special needs?

Pam: JP has taught me NOT to judge a book by its cover; he has taught me to appreciate what I use to look at as the "little things" as BIG accomplishments. He has taught me empathy and understanding for others. He has taught me to look at things from a completely different perspective,.....his. He has taught me that EVERYBODY has a gift, even if your development is different from others. He has taught me to LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY.....Ultimately, he has taught me that I WAS CHOSEN!

Q: What have you found to be the biggest challenge being the parent of a special needs child?

Pam: The biggest challenge I face being the parent of a child with special needs is TRUSTING. Trusting the teachers, trusting the therapist, trusting caregivers, trusting JP and the ABSOLUTE biggest challenge is TRUSTING MYSELF, MY DECISIONS and MY INSTINCTS. Because my oldest child Michelle was typically developed, I "practiced" on her and figured I would know what to do with my next child, but because JP is not typically developed, I didn't REALLY have practice. The things I did and experienced with Michelle, I don't necessarily go through with JP which means I'm a new parent all over again.

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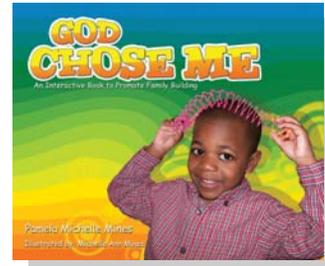
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PRESS RELEASE

A Mother Finds Her Cure For Autism In Knowing That She Was Chosen

Author Pam Mines offers an inspiring resource for differently-abled children in her new book, *God Chose Me*



Richmond, Virginia – Pam Mines’ youngest child James Perry (JP) was 2 ½ years old when he was diagnosed with Autism. After spending time with other parents of Autistic children, Pam quickly realized that they all shared at one time or another, very similar emotions such as fear, shame, denial, and sadness. Although there is currently no medical cure for Autism, a disability that affects 1 in every 110 children (according to recent studies by the Center for Disease Control), Pam knew that instead of being paralyzed by her emotions, she had to find “her cure” for Autism in order to give JP the best life possible. She realized that reminding herself and those around her that they were divinely chosen to be in the life of a special needs child, was exactly what she needed to cure her sadness, to cure her fear, to give her comfort, and to give her the strength to not only accept her son’s diagnosis, but to be an advocate for him and the special needs community.

In *God Chose Me*, Pam highlights such roles as Mommy and Daddy and pairs those roles with powerful statements, all beginning with the words “God Chose Me”. Pam writes, “God Chose Me ...To be your Mommy or Daddy because I am a Warrior for you and I have the Patience you need!” She also states, “God Chose Me...To be your Therapist because I offer the Foresight and Enthusiasm you need!” Each affirming statement is followed by a page that includes a clear sleeve placed over a child-like illustration, allowing the child to insert his/her own personal picture of the role being described. In addition to the interactive photo exercise which can be used to assist children with hand eye coordination, fine motor skills and person identification; Pam also includes bright bold colors to help with color identification; sign language to assist those who are non-verbal, and repetition to give children a pattern to follow.

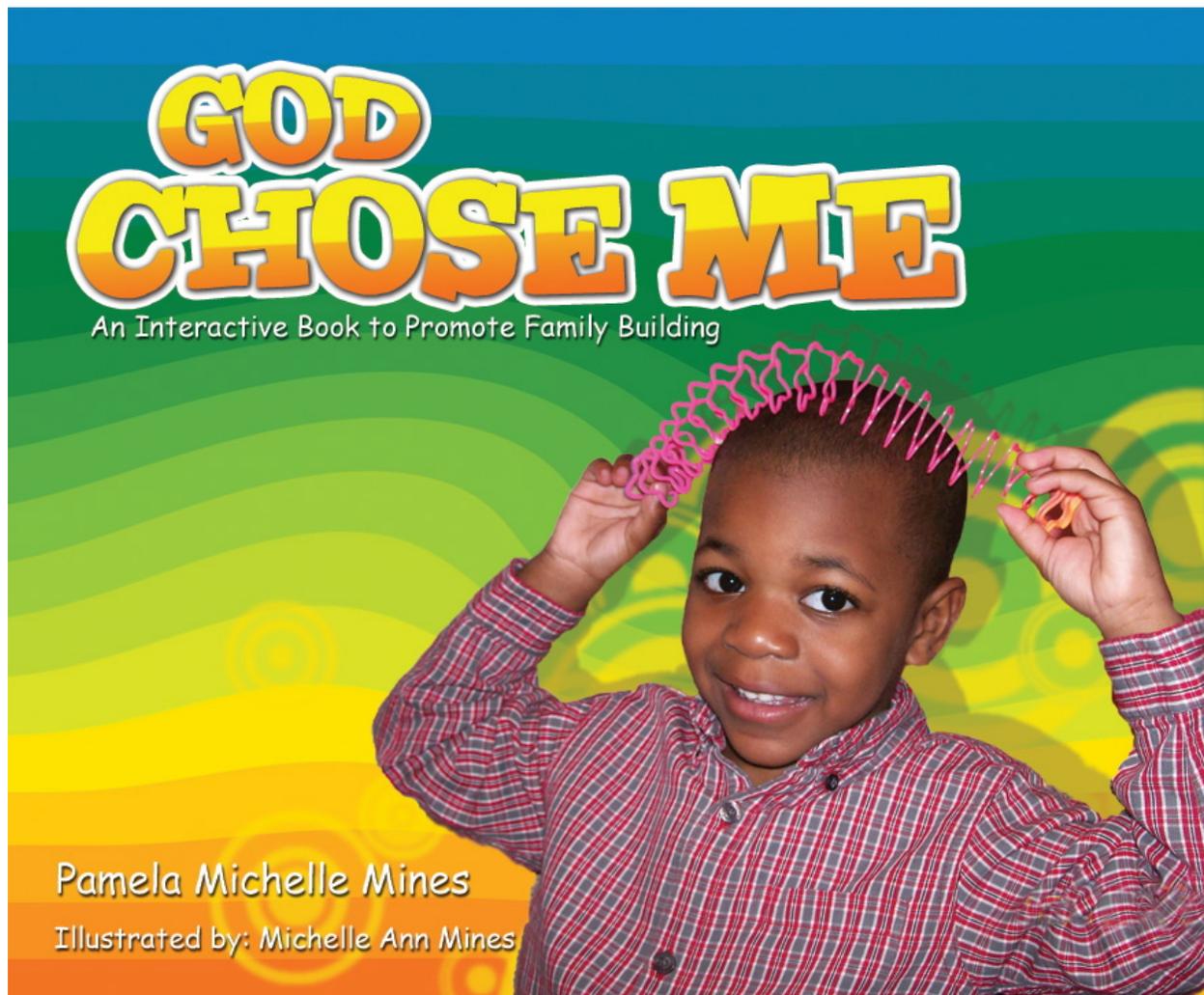
God Chose Me can be used by therapists, teachers, special needs ministries, support groups, families, and more. It is Pam’s hope that her book uplifts and inspires everyone that plays a role in the life of a special needs child.

Pam and her husband Perry reside in Richmond, Virginia with their 6 year old son JP, and 8 year old daughter Michelle, who serves as the Illustrator of *God Chose Me*. They also own Luv’em Like MINES Youth Services, Inc., a company they started in 2004 to help and mentor at-risk youth between the ages of 5 and 21 years old.

God Chose Me can be purchased by visiting www.luvemlikeMINESpublishing.com (\$19.95, ISBN 13: 978-0-9825104-8-3, ISBN 10: 0-9825104-8-3). Pam will donate a portion of every book sold to the charity of the purchaser’s choice.

To schedule Pam Mines for interviews, lectures, or book signings; or for additional information about *God Chose Me*, please contact Tracy M. Ross of TR Management: (804) 986-3274 or tracy@trmpr.com.

QUICK FACT SHEET



GOD CHOSE ME

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Cover Price: \$19.95

Trim Size: 8.25 x 10.75 | Paperback

Pages: 32

ISBN 13: 978-0-9825104-8-3

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Illustrator: Michelle Ann Mines

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A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

I am a wife to my wonderful husband Perry, and mother of two beautiful children. Our oldest child is 8yrs old, her name is Michelle. Our youngest child is 6yrs old, and his name is James (affectionately known as JP). JP was diagnosed with Autism at 2 ½ yrs old. Having two children with two different abilities has been a challenge especially when our point of having more than one child was to enable our children to have each other as playmates versus being the only child. Well, because of JP's Autism, they both seem to be "the only child." JP typically enjoys playing alone in his own little world, and Michelle loves playing with others, but rarely has JP to play with due to his delayed social interaction. Typical siblings pretend together, role-play together, joke together, argue together, etc. Instead of having that interaction, my 8yr old has taken on the role of "Little Mommy" instead of "Big Sister." Regardless of that, she LOVES, UNDERSTANDS and PROTECTS her brother at ALL times.

My background is in early childhood education. For years, I decided I could not work with a classroom of special needs children; I figured I was better suited to only work one-on-one. As a matter of fact, when I was 12yrs old, I would assist the therapist who worked with two Autistic children who lived right beside each other in my cul-de-sac (during that time, in 1986, the statistics for Autism were 1:10,000.00). Whenever I saw the therapist's car, I would go over to help during their sessions. As I got older, I had a passion for working with young children and was proud of myself for recognizing that I could only work with special needs children in a one-on-one environment. I did not feel like I had the ability to work in a classroom with special needs children so I never saw that as my population of choice. Well, God saw differently. He said to me, "How about I give you one-on-one with a special needs child.....for the rest of your life?" With that being said, I humbly accepted the appointment.

In our house, we laugh, we joke, we smile, and we PRAY a lot through most of the challenges that come with JP's disability. Actually, my accepting attitude seems to offend many parents of children with special needs because they feel I should have a "woe is me attitude," but I don't. Don't get me wrong, I have sad moments where Autism really "rattles" me. I don't get mad at JP, but I do get mad at Autism. I have mourned the loss of the son I was expecting and accepted the son that I have. That's not a bad thing because honestly, people don't sit around and pray for a special needs child. Most of the time people pray for a healthy child and expect a typical child. When my son was born healthy, my prayers were answered; when I found out he had a disability, I questioned my prayer. I think this is a typical emotion when you find out that your child has been diagnosed with a disability. However, I accepted it and saw it for what it was, a divine appointment of me, made by HIM.

Because of my perspective and perception of what God has chosen me to be in the life of my children, I wrote the children's book entitled God Chose Me. God chose me to be the mother of my children; God chose their therapist, their teachers, their friends, their family members, etc. I want people to realize that through the struggles of raising a special needs child comes a lot of JOY and until you accept that, you cannot FULLY accept your child's disability. You have to ACCEPT the disability so you can pray for the recovery/cure from that specific disability. That is why my book is so important to the Differently-Abled Community. Being involved in the life of a special needs child is a BLESSING and we should treat it as such. All of these things as well as an interactive picture exercise, sign language, bold colors and repetition assist in conveying such a positive message in my book God Chose Me. I am PRAYING that my book and experiences can help touch the lives of MILLIONS of people who have a special needs child in their life; and I hope that God Chose Me serves as a reminder to all of you, that you were CHOSEN.

~ Pam Mines

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To order GOD CHOSE ME and to learn more about Pam Mines and her upcoming projects and appearances, please visit www.luvemlikeMINESpublishing.com.

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"Touching Lives Through a Rainbow of Words"