

Testimony by Andrea



My name is Andrea and I was born in Pomona, CA on July 16, 1977. I was born into a dysfunctional and severely abusive drug-addicted family. My mother had seven

children altogether, and I believe she did the best she could, considering the life she had lived.

My mother was addicted to heroin when she gave birth to me, and she began using meth when I was quite young. I was abused by several of my uncles and cousins, and even an aunt. But my mother was very unable to see what was going on with me, due to her actively using.

I remember catching my mom using meth when I was around 10 or 11. It broke my heart. I sobbed uncontrollably and begged her to stop. She couldn't. By the time I was 12, she had offered me some dope, and I did it. That was the day I fell for meth.

It made me lose weight (because I was a fat, unpopular kid), and I was instantly outgoing and so popular. I truly believed that this drug would change my life for the better. Boy, was I wrong! That was the day I believe I made the biggest mistake of my life. I got involved with a lot of older kids, who were not the best role models. I got into a lot a trouble in school, along with getting involved with witchcraft. I learned a lot about their ways and never cared to try to get to know God. I could not ever imagine that there would be a loving higher power. I only knew of idols, which I learned from Wiccan ways.

I have had five children, starting at age 15, and have no chance of getting four of them back. But I

do have my youngest daughter who is 3½ that I am trying with all that I have to be able to come home to me. I love all of my children equally. It is just that it has taken me up to this point to find the faith to fight my disease of addiction.

I was arrested in September of 2009. I had been to jail many times and had seen and heard of Chaplain Judy Boen, yet never attempted to sit with her. But while I was in there, I was offered a chance to get into Captive Hearts—and I had to get my daughter back.

I got out of jail and three weeks to the day, I entered Captive Hearts recovery home. I cannot express how I felt from the second I walked through the door. I felt like I was home, not that it wasn't difficult at first, but with a lot of hard work and my willingness to listen and learn, I finally felt like I had gotten it.

This home and everyone here have loved me so unconditionally that I finally believe in myself. And with prayer, lots of prayer, I know I can do this, and I want to. I asked God into my heart, my soul and my life. And now I know that our God is a loving God. I love Him, and He loves me too.

In January, Judy sat down with me and said a prayer to break all ties of any dark and evil that still had a hold of me. It was the most amazing experience for me. And since that day, any doubts I have ever had are gone.

Don't get me wrong, I still struggle with some things. But now that I have God and my new family here backing me up, I know I can beat this addiction.

I now love my life and am so excited to know and love God and learn as much as I possibly can. I am on fire for our Lord!

Thank you so much for reading my story and for all of your prayers. For I now know the power of it all. And thank you the most—God.

—Andrea

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Success Story from Heather

I recently received an email from the African Birth Collective, and they have accepted me into their program. The training is March 10th. I have been studying to become a midwife for a couple of years, through the National Midwifery Institute. I am a single mother and have a \$12,000 tuition for all of midwifery school plus books and supplies. I have managed to pay part of it.

I also just started apprenticing with a midwife. The training program I am in requires me to catch 40 babies. Working with the local midwife, it would take me two years. By attending the African Birth Collective (www.africanbirthcollective.org), I will have most of my catches. Then I will work with a local midwife for one year and take my test and be licensed.

I have already had the phone interview and need to give them \$3,400, which covers the flight from New York, room, meals and medical supplies. All my expenses are roughly \$4,500. I know that God has called me to be a midwife and to go to Africa and I am asking my community to help me fulfill my calling.

All donations are tax deductible through Captive Hearts. If you would like to help, please make your check out to Captive Hearts. I appreciate any financial help and prayers. Please call Captive Hearts' office if you have any questions.

In His Love, Heather



(African Birth Collective is a non-profit organization that presents an opportunity for hands on midwifery training. The exchange program brings groups of international midwives and midwifery students to Sénégal, West Africa to exchange midwifery knowledge and skills and provide much needed medical supplies.)

Note from Chaplain Judy:

In the early 2000's, I met Heather while teaching at another recovery home. When she was released, she continued to be a part of Captive Hearts in her healing to enter back into society. One of the purposes of our outreach is to support these women in finding their destiny. Today, Heather has been clean and sober for seven years and is in school to make her dream come true. We at Captive Hearts support her as she achieves her goal to become a licensed midwife. I am so proud of her.



Congratulations to Michelle Young and Leona Smith who graduated from our home this month. Great job ladies!

Special Thank You

Thanks to all of you for the prayers, cards, visits and support while I was in the hospital. I ended up staying 12 days due to some complications that caused me to need more rest and healing. I'm home now and anticipating great things as I dream for the next phase of Captive Hearts.

Love you all!

—Chaplain Judy Boen

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