

## TESTIMONY FROM PATRICIA



My name is Patricia and I'm a 23-year-old alcoholic! Now you might think that's too young to be an alcoholic, but trust me, it's possible. I drank more than your average 23 year old: morning, noon and night until I had an actual physical addiction. So if I didn't drink, I would feel sick

and shake. I had a void in my life that I filled with alcohol and drugs, so it wasn't hard to find me drunk at any time of the day, especially for the cops. After three DUIs, I found myself at the mercy of the Court once again deciding my future for the next long while. The day before Court, I met with Chaplain Judy and decided the program at Captive Hearts would be good for me and hopefully keep me out of jail.

The next day Judy came to Court with me, and the DA decided there was no way I was getting out of jail time but agreed to a partial sentence in custody and the rest at Captive Hearts.

In jail, I had a lot of time to think about the lifestyle I was living and people I've hurt with my addiction. I've been given many opportunities and have been told my whole life that I have so much potential, but I always chose to party and blow things off. I decided there was a reason for me to find Captive Hearts, and it really was time for me to get my life together. Someone was watching over me... and that One was God.

The first day in the home, I felt an unconditional love and actually felt God wrap His arms around me. Since then, I have grown emotionally and spiritually in ways I never knew existed. I have learned about myself and how God has been there all along waiting for me. Today, I feel a peace about myself, I understand my emotions and no longer choose to mask them and hide under the blanket of addiction. I appreciate my life today and understand that everything in my life has happened for a reason, that my life has a purpose. I found Captive Hearts so I could have another chance to live a life where the void is filled with God, and I no longer search to fill that emptiness. I have a clean slate for a new beginning!

—Trisha

It's hard being in the waiting room wanting desperately to "see" our future, something other than a dark hallway with no windows. You may be going through a "dead" time where you have absolutely no feeling but hopelessness. Maybe you feel you are running into a wall or a dead end and are going through fear of not seeing a way out. We must faithfully keep the Word of God hidden in our hearts so that this is the only thing we speak in our place of stillness. In times of uncertainty, *wait and praise Him*. Always, if you have any doubt, *wait*. Do not be forced to any action. You might be feeling abandonment, rejection, pain and suffering. We must be still before the Lord, knowing confidently that He is at work on our behalf, and this too will pass.

Moses told the people, "*Don't be afraid, just stand where you are and watch the Lord rescue you.*"

### BE STILL!

*The Egyptians that see you today will never be seen again. The*

*Lord himself will fight for you and you won't have to lift a finger in your defense" (Exodus 14:13).*

These words contain God's command to the believer when they are reduced to great trials and extraordinary difficulties. When there is no way to turn, what are we supposed to do? Being a child of God, we cannot fear what all is going on around us but must draw close to the One leading us. We can hear Him say, "Stand still," and be immovable as a rock on which we stand during the storms of life. We must keep the posture of an upright individual, ready for action, expecting further orders, cheerful and patiently awaiting the voice of our Leader. It will not be long until He will say to us as distinctly as He did to Moses, "Go forward!"

—Chaplain Judy

## NORTH COUNTY - ATASCADERO OFFICE

God is good all the time! Through the darkest night, His light will shine! We have seen that statement ring true this very week.

As some of you know, we have been given permission to put our, "Change Changes Lives" money buckets around town in different stores in Atascadero. Well, imagine our excitement as we watched the money rise higher and higher in the AM/PM store bucket. We were very excited as the owners are not American and are not Christians – yet! The manager was a little worried as it had been doing very well and he didn't want anything to happen to it. I told him I would come in and empty it out and start fresh that week.

On Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> I went in to switch out the buckets and low and behold, it had been stolen the night before! The owner had called the police and had a tape of the robbery. The police told him that the economy is causing things like this to happen and we weren't the only ones this had happened to.

The owner had estimated that there was over \$200.00 in the bucket and he and his wife felt very bad for us as they had been putting money in the bucket for us too. The odds are that we will never really know who took it and won't see that money again. So you ask me how I can stay so positive in this bad situation. Because, my faith will never be in man or what man can do for me. It is our faith and trust in God that will get us through the "darkest night" and it is only in the darkest nights that we see His light shine so brightly!

Please join me in praying for the people who were responsible for taking the money bucket. They obviously needed the money pretty badly to do something like this. So let's see how we can bless them verbally and prayerfully and see how God outshines Himself on this one!

Shinin' Bright for Him!  
Chaplain Gwenn Wood

### Walk Away From Drugs & Alcohol

On Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Captive Hearts sponsored a "Walk Away From Drugs & Alcohol" walk-a-thon as a fundraiser. The walk began at Highway 1 in Grover Beach near the Amtrak Station and ended at Strothers Park in Arroyo Grande, a little over four miles.

We were blessed to have many in the community, along with our ladies from the homes participate in this event. Thank you to all the sponsors who took part and supported us and cheered us on.

A barbeque lunch awaited all who took part in the walk at Strothers Park.

### Needs of Captive Hearts

#### South County

- Volunteers to teach classes
- Volunteers to house sit
- Volunteers to transport to and from appointments,
- Mentors for the women
- Vacuum (for recovery home)
- A good running, newer small car for office use

#### North County

- Volunteers! We need two receptionists
- Someone to dispense food donations
- Must be computer experienced

We are still collecting inkjet cartridges and used cell phones as a fundraiser

Your monetary donations are tax deductible.

### Upcoming Events

**May** – Java Juice Fundraiser every Monday

**June** – Pismo Beach Realtors Golf Tournament

## Bible Depot Christian Bookstore



Scott & Susan Pigeon

805 B. West Grand Ave.  
Grover Beach, CA 93433  
(805) 481-0470  
[www.bibledepotgb.com](http://www.bibledepotgb.com)

**Mon-Sat 9:30 till 6:00**

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Also, for your convenience, you can donate online from our website at [www.captivehearts.org](http://www.captivehearts.org). This makes it easier for many to pay from the website.