

January 2, 2020

To Yeshua's Kingdom People,

SHALOM! This is not a confession but a living testimony that God can and does change broken lives. Thirty one years ago I was a mess. I was living a reckless lifestyle, not caring about any consequences. Due to this lifestyle I spent 31 years incarcerated. It took a drastic event to get my attention, an event that changed my life. It wrecked not only my life but those of my family's and friends' too. Everything was shattered. I didn't just hit rock bottom, I was buried under it.

Unknown to me at the time was that God had a plan. He reached out to me and I accepted his gift of Mercy and Grace. I have not looked back since. God has taken so many bad things out of me and I have no desire to go back or be bound by them again. Did this change come right away? No, but not because of God. It was because of me. I needed growth, training and pruning. I had to learn what true trust and faith were in an unseen being that held all the answers. It did not come easy because I have trust issues.

I was surrounded by a lot of religious guys and ministries that God used to teach me many things. One of these ministries is Kingsway and Louise Jennings, head of the organization herself. Sister Louise has never failed to send a card or some type of encouragement. She always knew where I was and even 31 years later she and the Kingsway team still touch my life. God has used them to help me get to where I am today. The Lord has used every situation and experience to bolster my spiritual growth for His good purposes.

I walked through a valley so deep for so long with only faith. God showed me He was always with me in powerful ways. He answered prayers that no one save Him and myself knew anything about. Doors began to open and this continued to build my faith every time. For example, a brother and I were praying in his bed area and we were not looking around yet felt hands touching our backs and shoulders as if others had joined us. We were both crying openly as God's Spirit is so sweet and powerful! When we were done praying we looked around but no one else was there. We asked the guy in the next bed and he said no one had bothered us. We knew then that angels had prayed with us! Praise the Lord! God has proven Himself to be real many times over and has made, "Watch God Work," my motto.

At the end of my 31 years God is still moving and working in my life. I had nowhere to live, no money and no family – NOTHING! Yet God proved my motto to be true every time. My self-efforts had gotten me nowhere. God opened the hearts of others to give me housing, food, clothes, fellowship and even my employment. And I actually like my job. Unusual? Yes! God has given me a young man's strength to do good work and I even earned a raise within in a short period – pay your tithes!

I live the lifestyle He wants according to His biblical standards and people know I am different. People are curious about it too and this serves as an open door for my testimony. No one expected me to ever see freedom again after 31 years of incarceration. I know it was only because of the Lord's Grace that this happened and not through my efforts alone. So every day I do my best to live this life and show everyone what God can do. I could go on to tell you of all the wondrous things God has done for me in 31 years. But the thing is that He is not finished yet. Be a living testimony today and "WATCH GOD WORK!"

Blessings,

C. H. "Hawk"