

SLIVER OF HOPE MINISTRIES

Sliver of Hope Ministries is a bit unique in that not only do I present our story from the alcoholic's point of view, but also Elaine steps up to share the point of view of how it affects the whole family. Combined with the spiritual gift of music which the Lord has blessed me with, it is our desire that we can touch many lives and provide hope that **addiction can be overcome**.

My and Elaine's story is a testimony of God's unconditional love, mercy, grace, and most of all, **hope**. A testimony of how God rescued our family and our marriage from the wreckage of alcohol addiction.

We grew up in a small rural town with few options on weekends for entertainment. As a result, most of our entertainment included the consumption of alcohol.



Elaine and I were high school sweethearts, and after 2 years of college we got married in August of '87. Early on I realized I did not drink like a normal social-drinker; I always drank to excess. For the first 12 years of our marriage, I was what is known as a "high-functioning" alcoholic. I worked a full-time job and only drank in the evenings and weekends. At some point, I crossed the line into full-blown debilitating alcoholism. For the next 10 years Elaine did everything in her power to try to get me to stop. However, no amount of threatening, tears, begging, or love could make me stop. I had to reach my bottom on my own. I was in and out of detox units and rehabs, but nothing seemed to work.

The last few months of my drinking "career" led me to that bottom. Having turned my back on God, I found myself living alone ... I have never felt so alone in all my life. Alcohol had become my master. I allowed it to take everything from me; my family, friends and dignity. But, most of all, I had allowed it to come between me and God. At times I felt suicidal. I just wanted the pain to stop.

April 10th of 2010 was the turning point. Out of desperation, I called the police on myself. ... I hadn't broken any laws, but fortunately for me, Elaine had been working in the background to get my probation officer to have an arrest warrant issued for me. That warrant saved my life.

I would love to share more of this story with you and your church... I believe it can save a life, a family, even a community if God chooses to intervene.

During this entire time, God never left my side. The whole time I was in that apartment, drinking myself to death; He was on that filthy nasty couch right beside me. Doctors say, I probably should have died in that apartment, but the Lord had other plans.

NOW... three and a half years into sobriety, Elaine graciously accepted my proposal for re-marriage. I have been able to experience things I otherwise never would have been able to. I was there to witness both of our daughters graduate college and give them away in marriage. I have 6 beautiful grandchildren who have never seen me inebriated. God has blessed Elaine and I greatly; and having survived that hell together, our relationship is stronger than ever.

We genuinely enjoy each other's company and find joy in the little things in life. However, just because I got sober doesn't mean all our problems have gone away. There are still trials and tribulations, but now I know the answer does not come from a bottle, but the Lord.

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