

I, Martin, moved to San Diego, CA, in 1967. I have lived in San Diego most of my life and grew up in the drug culture. For 14 years, I was a drug addict and an alcoholic. I began using alcohol and drugs at the age of 13. I ventured into the drug world thinking I had the world on a shoestring, believing that I did not need anyone except for myself, and did well for 14 years. I had my own place, two Camaros, and two trucks, all the money I needed, and felt comfortable in the life that I was living.

Even though I have had a shot gun pressed into my forehead, a Tarzan knife across my main artery at my neck, a revolver at the back of my head and two Glocks pressed into my forehead (by the grace of God no one pulled the trigger or cut my throat or stabbed me) I thought I had it all, until one day God stepped in and showed me that what I had was nothing at all. I was arrested and went to Jail, then to prison and back to Jail again. It was 1987, and in jail, I was having recurring nightmares, the same one for three nights in a row, and could not sleep.

I told another inmate about my problem, and he handed me a small Gideons' bible and said, "Read this, and your problem will go away." I snatched that bible out of his hand and read it that evening before going to bed. I slept like a baby. I have continued to read the bible ever since. In prison, I managed to get a hold of a large Zondervan bible and read it from cover to cover. Later, I went to the El Cajon County Jail and continued reading the bible and finally gave my life to the Lord.

In a two-person cell, there were 4 to 5 people at any one time. There was a lot of friction in that cell, so much that one evening, I felt that I was going to have a nervous breakdown. I then got off my lower bunk and got down on my knees, bowed

my head and prayed to God, I asked God to please get me out of this place and proceeded to give my life to God “I prayed Father I give my life to You, not 75%, not 90%, not even 99%, but 100% I am Yours.”

Then God spoke to me and said, “My son.” I heard His voice audibly and suddenly looked up and around to see who was talking with me. I saw no one and then lowered my head and asked, “Who are you?” God responded by saying “I AM” this did not click in my mind at first, so there was a pause, and He then said “God, free my people” at first I thought God was referring to getting His people out of jail, then it dawned on me to free His people from the clutches of Satan and sin. I have been an evangelist all of my Christian life. Once out of jail and prison, I have remained drug and alcohol free since 1987, and have walked with the Lord ever since.

I know that the Lord has led me to this church. I have been a member ever since and have held various positions in the church, such as deacon, greeter, prison ministry volunteer, and music praise team participant. In 1994, I met Bruce in church, and we founded the Leaves of Autumn Ministries, freely distributing Christian books, Bibles, and DVDs. We have also counseled and reasoned with people about the bible, Jesus, salvation, drug and alcohol addiction, and diet.

We now continue to distribute paperback books and Bibles, helping the less fortunate with clothes, food, Christian books, and Bibles, and maintaining this website, where individuals can read or download Christian books in PDF format. I am presently 62 years old and thank the Lord for creating, redeeming, and changing me from the life that I once lived. If

God can change me, He can change anyone if they would give God a chance. One day, I hope to have a book published with more details about how God saved me and the miracles He has performed in my life.