

How the love of God changed my life

I always knew about Jesus, but I turned my back on Him when I was about 14. I had about 35 years of violence throughout New Zealand. I wanted to be a tough man to the end, even though I knew I was going to Hell.

My President (of Black Power) asked me to go on a programme for emotional healing to help sort my life out. I had been on so many programmes to try and better my life. All of them failed because none of them had God in there. But on this next programme I received the Holy Spirit. I said to my President, "Bro, you never told me it was about God." He said to me, "Would you have gone if you knew that?" No, I wouldn't have! It's the pride thing that holds a person back.

Jesus revealed Himself to me in many ways. He took away my drug and pornography addictions and my violence. He was working on me. The old person is gone now. I don't think I have a violent bone left in my body.

All my life I wanted to die. This came from the way I was brought up and then finding out that I was adopted. Department of Corrections found my birth mother and I came to know of the unhappiness for her. I was created through rape; my mother was gang raped by nine Hell's Angels. I always wanted a father. Something always felt not right. My adopted mother felt like my mother, so I thought we were like cats and dogs, with different coloured kittens and puppies, and I was the black one.

I was sitting outside in deep thought. Shirlene came out and thought that I was suffering from depression again, which is another thing Jesus has healed me from. I no

longer have depression. I went to church on Father's Day, while Shirlene stayed home to make me a Father's Day lunch. I was looking for an answer, but I went home not knowing what's going on. I told Shirlene about it and she turned around and told me that she had been praying for me for the last two months. She had been praying every day for God to make me humble.

I never knew what "humble" was. I was hard because hurting people hurt people. I didn't know anything about forgiveness. I held onto so much pain from my upbringing, what me and my sister went through. My sister went through a lot of emotional damage as well.

Unforgiveness is poisonous and toxic. This was something I learned on the programme. Would we get up in the morning and drink a glass of poison. No, we wouldn't, but if you hold onto unforgiveness it's exactly the same thing. You are drinking poison every day and it is eating you from the inside out. Give that unforgiveness to the Lord.

I'm thankful to the Black Power brothers who sent me to the programme to find God, even if they were not believers in Jesus themselves. They have to understand that God is at work in them. I wasn't going there myself, so God put the people in my life to direct me there, so that I would repent of my sins and receive the Holy Spirit.

The true testimony or miracle is my wife. In obedience to God we got married on the 10th of February, 2018. She is the one who put up with me. I always wanted to change. I didn't like myself as a person. I was justifying my wrong actions to try and make me feel better, yet Shirlene saw that I was trying. I am grateful for every morning I wake up.

For the record, my wife actually proposed to me when we decided to get married. The first time, when we were young and had our daughter, I had proposed and she was ready to marry me, but then I ruined it and had time in jail. The violence and drug addiction escalated. The second time I planned to propose was when we went for a ride in a helicopter. She knew that I was going to propose to her, so she just turned around to me and said, "Don't ruin the day." I got a bit upset!

She always said that she would marry me when I lived up to her expectations of her father. She lost her father when she was 9 years old. He had a heart attack and passed out, near the railway tracks on his way to work. I never knew what I had to live up to, but when Shirlene saw that I had changed she proposed to me. When we became Christians we understood the importance of marriage and not just living together. Marriage was God's design from the beginning.

It was a few weeks before I turned 50 that I became a Christian. Shirlene and I got baptized. Letting go of the past was the hardest. Becoming self-employed helped to put the bread and butter on the table because before that I made money selling cannabis. Shirlene was really worried about how we were going to survive, so we have seen how far we have come.

I used to indulge in other drugs through the proceeds of cannabis. I used to justify what I was doing by saying, "I only sell cannabis; I don't sell P." But I knew that cannabis can lead to harder drugs. I would never want to go back to what I was before. Sometimes I have felt guilty for my past sins. It was like the devil was attacking me and saying that I was not forgiven, but then I look to what Jesus did for me on the



JESUS TURNS SINNERS INTO SAINTS



ROBERT & SHIRLENE

cross. He died in my place so that I can be forgiven.

The true meaning of Christmas is that Jesus was born so that we can live. I encourage you to receive a new life and become a new person in Christ. What Jesus did for me He can do for you. I want everyone to be blessed like myself. Shirlene and I have committed ourselves to following Jesus and it has been the best time of our lives. Open your heart to God's love and He will change you.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16).

'Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God' (1 John 5:5).

Receive the Lord Jesus as the Saviour of your soul, so that you are born again by the Spirit of God. This is how you become one of God's precious children. Then come to church and get water baptized. Please pray:

"Lord Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner. Save me and set me free."

The greatest gift you can receive this Christmas is eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. You are welcome to visit our church and be a part of our spiritual family. God bless you.

For more information contact:

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Sunday Service Times - 10am & 6pm
(no evening service during January)

From Hate to Love



Merry
Christmas