

Testimony of John Manuel Martinez,

Through the grace of God, I give this testimony of myself for others to know that drugs are not the answer. It only “kills and destroys” Jesus is the answer! He heals and restores! With God, all things are possible (Matt 19:26) for the glory of my Lord, I give my testimony. Note: there is never a good reason to use or sell drugs.

I started selling drugs, not only to support my need but also to help support my family. Even though we both worked, I wanted them to have extra. We had five kids to support and I wanted them to have those little extra things that other kids had and with all the luxuries of eating out whenever we desired, going on retreats to the lake, movies, zoo etc.

I knew what I was doing was wrong and one day I would have to “Pay the price.” Now here I sit with an 8 year sentence “Alone.” But at that time all that mattered to me was the joy of them having a good time. I always had put them first, until the drugs took over me. I began to become very hostile to everyone around me, especially my wife. Renita tried so hard to bear the emotional pain I was causing her, but my hostility became too unbearable for her and one day it got physical.

Finally it happened....I lost everything that meant so much to me. My family, my life was coming to a tragic end. Not being able to deal with the separation and rejection of my family, I felt as though my life was nothing with out them. My drug usage more than tripled after my family left. I lost all control. Satan again stepped in and took over. I got hooked more than ever before and with every hit I took, the pain would seem to go away. The pain of losing my family, especially my youngest one Sarina and Merissa. But it was too late; I was to far gone to turn back. I had done too much, and was about to do more. I not only saw death standing before me, I felt it.

I knew I was about to die and I cried out “God stop me.” Please save me! Moments later I was arrested and when I was placed in handcuffs I said “Thank you Lord.” God heard my cry for his help and He saved me.

Since my arrest God has shaped me up spiritually, mentally and physically, and filled me with peace, joy, love and understanding through His word. There’s only one way to go, one way to live and that’s “God’s way” He is the light to our lives; all we have to do is allow Him to shine.
John Manuel Martinez