



Brian Archibald



My life before Christ

At the age of eleven I became a drug addict. From that tender age my life started out as a child's town Ferris wheel ride and soon turned into to an adult e-ticket rollercoaster fiasco.

There isn't a drug that I hadn't tried, from marijuana to heroine and everything in between. I overdosed several times at the ages of 16, 36, and 52. Sadly over the course of my life I have committed unspeakable acts of violence against anyone and everyone, including those I loved and who loved me, in order to acquire drugs.

At the age of 25 I became a Blood gang member in order to find a sense of belonging, only to find out that I was more alone being in the gang than I was when I was by myself.

I then became a cult member with a number of people who worshipped the devil. Between 2002 and 2009 I tried to kill myself on three different occasions. I jumped off of a bridge twice and survived and one other time I put a gun to my head, pulled the trigger, but the gun misfired. As a result of overdoses, gangs, cults, and attempted suicides I ended up in and out of mental hospitals during the last fifteen years and spent over two thirds of my life either homeless or in prison.

How I came to Know Him

I was first introduced to Christ when I was 11 years old. From that early age I knew who He was but I didn't 'Know Him' because I hadn't developed a relationship with Him. I really didn't know or understand what a relationship with Him meant or that I could even have one with Him.

All my life I have believed in God. I had read the bible from front to back and I knew all the stories, characters, events, time frames, and even the messages of God's love. But it wasn't until I returned home in Rhode Island from Florida in September 2012 that I found the love and purpose for my

life that I had been looking for from the age of eleven.

Back in Rhode Island I was staying at the Amos House shelter in Providence. It was there that I met Chuck Johnson from the Rhode Island Dream Center and Praise Tabernacle Church. He invited me to come to a bible study, which I accepted. Since then Chuck has become the father I

never had and always wanted. From that point on he became my “Dad” and that what I call him to this every day.

My life now as a new person in Christ

I was immediately drawn into the Dream Center’s programs. It felt so awesome to finally be a part of something that was Christ centered and Kingdom directed. OverComers gave me confidence and security in knowing that I was not alone in my struggles. Early Seekers and the Food Truck has given me a sense of belonging and self-worth because for the first time I was doing something good for another human being as opposed to just thinking about myself.

No longer a member of a gang or cult I soon found myself on the other side of the line, handing out clothing, bagged lunches and hot coffee with of a group people from the Rhode Island Dream Center who truly believe and live what the Dream Center is all about “Restoring Impoverished Lives” by showing a broken and hurting world the Love of God and letting people know He is their friend.

It was through these programs that the Lord opened up my eyes to His purpose and His will for my life.

Sure I had always believed in God, but the reality is that until I truly accepted Jesus into my life and made the decision to turn my life around 180 degrees that I started to experience love, forgiveness and a purpose for my life

My life was nothing without the Lord in it, and now it is growing stronger every day because He lives in me and He has given me a place that He is able to use me to show others that He is real...