



A safe place to grow in turning
our lives 180 degrees
from ourselves to Christ and others

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WHAT'S IN THIS EDITION?

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

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I know it has been a long time since you received a newsletter but I want to thank you for sticking with us and praying for us as we see God at work in many people's lives.



Since our last newsletter our dear friend Mark Sanford went home to be with Jesus. He served as the board secretary for Live 180 since we began. He lived out an amazing testimony of serving and worshipping Jesus through his battle with pancreatic cancer. You can also read his testimony of Jesus setting him free from his identity issues in our June 2017 Newsletter.



Also, our dear brother Jeffrey Sharp slipped into the nearer presence of Jesus as he gladly made the jump into heaven from his battle with cancer. I can honestly say I've never seen anybody go through so many dramatic changes as Jeffrey. After a wild and crazy journey, he found his true identity in Christ and humbled himself to the changes Jesus was bringing in his life. He was willing to tell anybody the truth of Jesus at the end of his life. See his testimony in the June 2024 Live 180 newsletter.



JERRY'S TESTIMONY – Radically Changed By Jesus

Born Into A Big Family

I am 54, and was born on October 31st, 1971. I am number nine of eleven children. Six boys and five girls. We moved to Orange, CA. when I was two and my dad worked for a company his whole life repairing industrial equipment. I was the polar opposite of my father, unable to grasp anything mechanical but able to do almost anything creative and artistic. We struggled financially, so as a little kid I would cut out and paint elaborate cardboard characters to play with.

Innocence Robbed

I often stayed at one of my older sister's home with her live-in boyfriend. From the time I was four until I was six he molested me and threatened me not to tell. My older brother caught him and thankfully that ended. It has only been recently that I have grasped how much those years impacted my poor decisions in adulthood.

Misunderstood at School

I am the classic ADHD boy with high artistic capabilities. These things do not match the general educational system and I often felt very stupid. The Catholic nuns made regular use of the ruler. My mom was a very devout Catholic who read her Bible and went to mass at least once a week. As kids we all had to go with her but by the time we were 10 we didn't have to go and so I didn't.

Self Medicating

At nine, I started smoking pot and continued to do so throughout my life. It slowed my racing brain, especially my anxiety which has been a lifelong struggle, and it helped me to avoid facing my pain. At twelve, I moved in with my oldest sister until I was 18.

Running Wild

Because I have always been so artistic and have a great sense of fashion, I began working at Nordstroms in the shoe department in the South Coast Plaza Mall at age 18 and moved out on my own. The next year in 1990 I moved to New York. I sold Italian shoes in the Trump Tower. I worked in fashion dressing people. I set up and designed for special events and basically ran around like a crazy person just trying to be noticed and valued. I never

really identified myself as a gay man but I found that the other wild people out there that I enjoyed the most we're in that community so that's where I got lost. I was in and out of a few relationships until my mom died of cancer in 1998. I was 27.

Off The Deep End

Her death traumatized me and I was a total wreck and I began to self medicate with meth. I returned to Los Angeles and worked in the home decor and furniture business but was essentially falling off a cliff in my addiction which led to even more crazy behavior. I first came to Palm Springs for a few years in 2004 to go into a rehab and sober living. I was freed from my meth addiction but I still was highly irresponsible in my personal life which led to lots of jobs and places to live with no real stability. After struggling in Palm Springs, I moved back to LA but had the same problems there before returning to Paul Springs permanently in 2011.

God Showed Up At Trina Turk's

At 41 years old, one day while I was working at the very famous Trina Turk clothing boutique in Palm Springs, I met Mark and Liz. (Leaders of our home Bible Study) They asked me if they could have a private conversation and I thought "oh great, another crazy Palm Springs couple wanting to have three-way sex." But it was something completely different! Liz told me that God had spoken to her about me and that He loved me very much and had very big plans for my life. I had never experienced anything like this before even though I would have said that I believed in God but He was kind of just one other side note of the many things in my process of trying to find value and purpose. Mark and Liz invited me to their home where we began a dinner and Bible study in 2012.

My True Purpose Began To Appear

Mark and Liz were attending Our Saviors Church where Pastor David and Andrea were working. On Sunday mornings Mark and Liz would invite people from the sober living and anyone else out to Lulu's for breakfast and then we would join them at Our Saviors for Sunday services. I was still quite a mess but that didn't matter to Pastor David and Andrea and they even allowed me to be involved in some of the children's Christmas Store activities when I was obviously still using and was unstable. I began to see how profoundly I loved children and how God used me in their lives and how he used me in inviting other broken people to the Bible study and to Sundays.

If you have been reading past testimonies or if you want to you can go back and look at the people God brought to the group through my invitation, then look at Mike, April 2017. David, September 2017. Joseph, October 2017. David, April 2018. Kurt, November 2018. Jacob, November 2019. God has used me to invite many others over the course of the last 13 years.

The process has been very slow for me in coming around to fully rely on Jesus. I like to say that I start to do it and then I go off on my own and get myself into a big pile of poo. Then I come back for a while and do the same.

What is different now?

Recently at our Live 180 Bible Study, I asked for prayer and there was a clear release from demonic oppression in my life! My fears and anxieties have dramatically decreased. I am regularly going to AA meetings and telling everyone that Jesus is the one who has truly

changed me. I am inviting everyone I come in contact with who is open to the changes in my life to come and join us at our Sunday Bible study. Five more people are now coming. I am praying every morning and throughout my day and reading my Bible. These are things I almost never did before.

I now feel as though I truly am at a point where wandering off will not be a part of my journey anymore but my full focus will be on trying to grow up and serve Jesus with my whole heart.

Our Live 180 group have stuck with me over these 13 years of ups and downs. Over the last year I have been staying on and off across the street from pastor David in the house where his son lives. Many broken people like myself often need people to encourage us over long periods of time, but most importantly, Jesus' love has been patient and He has never given up on me.

Prayers

My prayer for you is that you will use the gifts God has given you in the lives of other people and that when you come across people like me who take a **long time** to come around, please don't give up on us and rely on God's patience to wait on what He will do in His time.

Also, please pray for me as I am embarking on a journey of a real change.

Previous testimonies can be seen on our [website's newsletter tab](#).

View the Live 180 [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).

HOW TO PRAY FOR US

Praise God That – Jerry Has gone through a radical deliverance and is on the path that God has for him and we get to enjoy him across the street.

That – God Will give me the right words with the new people that are coming to live 180 through Jerry and others..

That – Andrea's writing of various books and devotionals will touch many lives to transform their walks with God.

That – God will lead Ray Ray in his next steps with his job and in life!

That – the process of Probate for Glenn's home across the street will wrapup soon. It has been 30 months!!

WE EXIST BECAUSE WE BELIEVE

- God wants all of us to live 180 degrees, that is, turning our eyes off ourselves and fixing them on Jesus and others.
- There are a large number of people in Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley who are uneasy about walking through the doors of a traditional church.
- There are others who are looking for a place without labels and a lot of love to grow in their faith walk with Jesus.
- These people are longing for the following things:
 - a safe place to meet one-on-one and in groups to talk honestly about God.

- a relationship with God.
- a place to use their gifts to serve God and others.
- That Holy Spirit will lead each of us closer to Him and to His church.

OUR MAILING ADDRESS

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