

An Addict's Story of Faith and Redemption

Testimony - a public recounting of a religious conversion or experience.

I am a recovering addict and my re-introduction to faith is very much intertwined with my recovery. For years, I was an adulterer, a thief, a liar, a manipulator, and a drug addict. Then one day something changed, I received my first invitation to attend a recovery meeting and thus my story of redemption begins.

I bet you're thinking that I was grateful to God for this opportunity, but that is not at all how I felt. I had no God, no spirituality, no faith, no hope. However, after some time attending meetings and working steps with a sponsor, I started to regain hope.

One Easter Sunday morning, I accepted an invitation to a sunrise service. It was beautiful and very welcoming. I was met with many warm smiles and greetings! I left that day feeling like I had found another home, and that was a small, country church within the PA Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. I realized that I was missing faith and God in my life.

I am learning to be humble and to serve God by caring for others, and that is what called me to become a part of the Addiction & Recovery Task Force. It is a privilege to help someone who needs it. Having my own struggles and experience with addiction, I felt that being a member of the task force was a chance for me to give back to others. In the words of Jesus (Matthew 25:31-46), "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me".

I am so grateful for all that we have been able to accomplish and we are **nowhere near done yet!** To know that a small group of people are trying their best to make a difference for those that are forgotten or without love is beyond anything that I could ever put into words.

Come and see for yourself what serving on this task force will provide in your own life!

A grateful recovering addict named Trish