

SoundWord Ministries

"An Inmate Outreach"

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I am an inmate at North Central Correctional Institution. I was in Dan and Nancy Orr's church service about two weeks ago when a guy named Kevin (Kevin Hamilton, a former inmate at NCCI) gave his testimony. I'll just say that God spoke to my heart in that church service.

I'm 24 years old but this is my 2nd prison sentence and my 3rd felony that I've done time on since I was 16 years old. There is an old song by rapper "Biggy Smalls" where the first sentence says: "I grew up a screw up"; well, that one line describes my whole life story. As far as I can remember, the first time I ever drank alcohol was when I was 7 years old. Up until that point I was pretty normal. When I was 10 or 11 my uncle Todd started molesting me and in turn he would eventually pay me money for some of the acts that he had me do. I could have told on him at any moment in my life but I never did because I was ashamed. (Since being in prison this time I have forgiven him). Also at age 11 I smoked my first joint; that's when all the trouble really started. I started shoplifting and was rarely ever caught. I had three sisters and one brother who stayed with my grandma Jackie and her boyfriend who used to beat on us kids for sport. I can remember I used to beat up on my little brother and even sometimes I would hurt one of my sisters. I did all of that until after I turned 16. When I was 16 years old I caught a drug trafficking case. Eventually I was forced to move with dad out in Iowa. I was forced, because I got caught doing something really messed up in school and got caught with pills. I was ordered out of the state of Ohio until I was 18 or else I would go to prison until I was 21.

I stayed with my dad less than 90 days and he gave up on me shortly before I could complete the 11th grade. I tell you that everything was my fault. Eventually my dad bought me back to Ohio around April 2003 and he told me he was coming back for my sister's graduation, but what actually happened was he dropped me off at my grandma Smith's house and never came back to even say good-bye. Then, because my grandma Smith could not handle me, she sent me to my mom and my mom gave up on me in less than 1 week, because I smoked too much pot and ate too much of her food. My mom sent me to the Lima Homeless Shelter about 40 days before I turned 18, so I was 17 years old living on the streets and learning from any of the other older homeless guys on how to survive. Truth be told, I did whatever it took to survive on the streets. I stayed anywhere that you can think of, I learned how to sell myself to support my drug lifestyle or to find a spot to stay. When I could not find someplace to stay for the night I would sleep anywhere and I would eat out of garbage dumpsters anything that could be eaten.

At 19, I was on my way to prison for my first prison number and I let my homosexuality follow me into prison and I did disgusting things there for 2 years. I was in and out of incarceration many times, yet I still continued on in my old lifestyle, the only one I knew.

To make a long story short, I got arrested on July 24, 2008 for attempted burglary and I received a prison sentence of almost 4 years. I've been in prison almost 19 months now and I acted out one time in a homosexual act about a year ago. Right after I did, the Lord convicted me in a strong way, and I have not done it again, because I know it is wrong. God truly has been working on me these past 19 months and He's slowly been changing my life. As a matter of fact, I'm now going to church services on a regular basis and over this last summer He helped me get my GED. Then Kevin, the guy who came in here with Dan & Nancy, showed up and when he gave his testimony, it really touched my heart. I used to serve Satan my whole life but now my whole heart and ministry stands for Jesus Christ. 2000 years ago Jesus was born and He paid the debt that He did not owe.

Please show this to others so that they, too, might be able to see how Jesus Christ can change anyone.