

To The Family of *We See You San Diego*

I would like to express a profound and heartfelt THANK YOU!! For because of what you have done for me, my life has been drastically changed.

You see, I was a bottom of the barrel lying, cheating, stealing, violent and immoral drug addict living in the gutters and grime of San Diego, doing ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING for my next high. Cops knew me and was a frequent flier at Las Colinas Jail. No one and nothing was safe or secure if I was around.

On the day of May 10, 2020 I was involved in a physical altercation. Unfortunately, this particular one left me beaten under a bridge off Friars Road covered in blood and dirt. I was surrounded by disgusting garbage, fecal matter, urine, broken meth pipes, and dirty used needles. I had been broken. Not just physically, but mentally emotionally and spiritually as well. I finally did something I should have done a long time ago. I cried out to God for help. I mean, why not? I was already on my knees. And you know what? HE ANSWERED. He sent in four of the most amazing souls I have ever encountered in my life. He sent in the army of Laura, Sophia, Julie and Sylvia. And they did something unbelievable. They treated me like a lady . . . like a human being.

I knew I had been defeated. So I did the unthinkable. I surrendered. I allowed these ladies to place me in the loving care of a faith-based program called "In His Steps". And this strange phenomenon has occurred . . . I have begun to love myself again. And the most intense and wonderful peace, serenity, tranquility and bliss I have ever experienced has sprouted deep within my spirit . . . a peace that can come from only one source. And that is through the REDEMPTION of the blood of My Sovereign Lord Jesus Christ.

I have almost six months of sobriety. But what I didn't know before is that I could have so much more. I have an amazing life with a job I love. For the first time in a very long, long time my future looks bright and promising. Today, I have something that was long ago forgotten. HOPE!!!! I have hope. The warmth of just a glimmer of hope was worth dying to my addiction and being born again. And this is just the beginning. My journey has just begun. I'm off to the greatest adventure of my life.

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and you will learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

With all my heart, thank you.

Sincerely,

Candace Barrett
formerly known as *Gypsy*