

TESTIMONY OF LINDA MATT

My name is Linda Matt. I was born and raised in Wilcox County, Alabama. In 1982, I moved to Mobile and was introduced to drugs for the first time. At first, I thought that I was having fun and for a time I did not seem to have problems because of my drug use. Later I found myself unable to keep a job. I not only couldn't keep a job, but I was staying away from my family as well. I kept telling myself, "I can do it," thinking that I didn't need any help and that I didn't have a problem. I was fooling myself. I kept getting jobs and losing them about two weeks later. I got an income tax refund check for \$2,000. Instead of finding a place to live, I blew all the money on drugs. At the time, I was living on the streets rather than living with my mother and obeying her rules. In three days, I went through the entire \$2000 with the help of all my new friends. After the money was gone, I was not as popular as I had been earlier in the week. Surprise! Surprise! I had been talking to God for about two years asking to be delivered from drugs. After I spent that money I found myself crying out to the Lord for help. I told Him that He had to do something because I couldn't do it myself. I ended up in an Alabama prison for selling drugs. He let me know that I couldn't do it by myself. I promised that if He got me out of the mess I was in, I would never go back to drugs and alcohol. I started to go to chapel services. The regular couple who did the Sunday services brought a guest from California, Mel Novak. He got our attention by backing everything he said with God's Word. We all received an Arsenal Prayer and flyer. He nailed me to the wall when he said that if we thought we could stay out of prison without the Lord; without praying, reading and studying God's Word; without getting involved in a Bible teaching church; and without praying God's Armor on daily, that we are fooling ourselves. He said that the Devil would have his way if we left Jesus Christ, the Bible and Arsenal prayer at the gate when we're released from prison.

I took his advice. He made us aware of the Devil's attacks. I pray every day and spend time with the Lord and His Word. I promised Mel that I would send him my testimony, but I forgot. Ten years later, I finally sent it to him. He sent me a fresh Arsenal prayer and a *Pulling Down Strongholds* booklet. I am still putting whatever problem I have in God's hands and I haven't looked back. I was a supervisor at the first job I got after turning everything over to the Lord. God has since blessed me with a new car, a home, and most of all, my sanity. One of the things Mel told us is that we had to protect our thoughts and put on the mind of Christ. I'm the happiest that I have ever been since I left drugs, and turned my will over to God's will. I believe that as long as I stay in line with God's Word and turn all my cares to Him, that He will take care of me. This doesn't mean I don't have trouble, for I do at times. It does mean that I have a way to deal with trouble by turning it over to God. If you really want to be delivered, God can do it for you. I am living proof of His grace and mercy. I will praise and worship Him all the days of my life. Just trust in the Lord and talk to Him for He hears everything, and He never lets you down. God bless you and thanks to everyone who helped me, especially His warrior from California.