

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT AND JOHN

Hello, my name is Robert and I am a native of Fort Worth, Texas. Things were always pretty fair and normal in our home until about the time I got to high school. This is when I started to stray away from my good Christian upbringing. Before high school my mother would always have us attend church every Sunday, but as I got older all that changed. I started getting interested in drugs, sex and parties on the weekend. That lasted from the time I was 15 to 17 years of age. By then, I was deep into marijuana, which I first smoked at age twelve with my aunt. I was very close to my aunt who has since passed away from AIDS. My mother told me she asked about me before she took her last breath in 1998. Whoever reads this, take this warning to heart. The Bible says, "Warning comes before destruction." Please do not use needles, crack or any drug. We are living in the last days and there is much out there that can kill you. Before I left Texas, I was smoking marijuana and drinking everyday just to get through the day. Now Jesus fills my days and nights as I have asked Him to do.

I was full of worry about my life, my family, and I had little hope. I was not eating very well and desperately wanted to have a relationship with God, the Father and His Son Jesus. I felt great guilt and remorse for taking things from people who loved me and whom I loved the most in this world. They have forgiven me because they did not want me to continue to take myself away from them. My life was always empty and I felt depressed and suicidal. God heard my cry for His love and grace and lifted me from my unrighteousness and destructive path. I used to think that I would go crazy, but He has renewed my mind and given me a new hope through His Son Jesus Christ. His words say, "Old things have passed away, and behold all things become new." I love that verse and it has helped me along the way. I praise and thank God for His Son, Jesus Christ. — *Robert T*

Hello, my name is John and I am 38 years old. I first started using drugs and alcohol when I was 13 years old. I was also first arrested at the age of 13. Since that first arrest, I have spent more time locked up in jails and prisons than I have free. Every time I was able to gain my freedom, I would lose it to drugs or alcohol. I finally understood that which I was looking for could not be found in drugs, alcohol, gangs, crime and rebellion. What I sought after was peace: peace of heart, peace of mind, peace of soul, acceptance for who I was, peace from all of my fears, doubts, misunderstandings. The Bible taught me that only through Jesus could I get that peace and acceptance in my life. I have learned how to deal with my decisions and with the confusion we all feel from time to time with our lives and the direction we are going. I want to take this time to thank Mel Novak for his ministry & especially for giving me the powerful Arsenal Prayer. I pray it daily & have torn down strongholds. I did not understand about spiritual warfare, but after hearing Mel 3 times, I do now. I would never have been able to find this peace and the great life that awaits me. I would never have been able to make the many great changes in my life to make my new life possible. Thank you so much for giving me the gift of Jesus; the gift that continues to give. I will never forget you Mel, nor will my fellow inmates. God is a living God, full of mercy and peace. I have become a new creation, through Jesus Christ, old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. I praise God all day long. God is good! — *John*