

ROAD TO RECOVERY

My name is Ron Powdrell, and I am a faithful believer in Jesus Christ. I would like to take this time to share with you my testimony on how Greater Hope has touched my life.

I've struggled with pornography addiction for 40 years and other habits, hang-ups, and hurts. I thought that nothing else could go wrong. In July 2011 my wife Debbie was arrested and charged with 15 counts of embezzlement. My world in my understanding came crashing down. Debbie was released on bond 18 days later. In June 2012 she was taken back into custody again because she pleaded guilty and remains incarcerated. Debbie was placed in the Christian Block where she was surrounded by all Christian women. She also entered into the Celebrate Recovery on the Inside Program.

I was referred to a counselor who suggested I attend the Men Pursuing Purity program at Greater Hope. As you can only imagine, I was lost and thought there was no hope for me. I was feeling rejected, and I tried to end my life twice. While trying to give up the second time, Jesus came and spoke to me. "This is not what your Heavenly Father wants for you."

I called my counselor and told her to please sign me up for the class. This is when I was introduced to Greater Hope and met Ron and Kathy Kipps. Ron had come to realize that I was hurting seriously. He told me how much God loves me and what I mean to God. I needed to believe in something true, because all my life, I was led down the wrong road.

Ron came to me one night and said, "I find no fault with you. Kathy and I have been praying for you every day." I was in shock! I didn't think anyone besides my wife cared so much for me. As the weeks moved on, I started to feel something inside of me changing. The anger started to fade away. When we learned about forgiveness and I forgave everyone in my life, that's when I became one with Christ.

The road has not been an easy one, but my Heavenly Father has not forsaken me yet, and never will. Ron, Kathy, and my church family have continued to walk with me. Debbie and I support each other every day on the phone and on weekends when I see her.

When God led me to Living Waters, I received the best Christian education. During the last class Ron made crosses for us from a 200-year-old barn board. He unwrapped a large cross and called me up with him. He proceeded to tell the class that the cross is for a very special woman in prison. My legs gave out from powerful emotions, but the leaders came to me at full speed, surrounding me and praying over me.

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Debbie and I have become one in Christ, our marriage and love for each other has become so much stronger, and the blessings from God just keep on coming! I am now on the road to recovery from my addiction and have a wonderful support team. I now know in my heart God truly loves me, Debbie and I have faith and hope, and we trust in God that she will come home soon. If not for Greater Hope and its amazing staff, there would be a grave stone with my name on it. I thank you so much, Greater Hope, for giving me a future with my wife. I now know I will be going to Heaven. God bless you all.