

# A Life Changed

Steven S.

At the end of October 2008, I was standing in front of the liquor store across the street from the Fellowship House of South Camden, begging for change to “get high” and drunk with. I was about 160 pounds and “cracked out” with one foot in my grave. To my surprise, God was not ready for me to see Jesus yet because he sent an angel named Lucy DuBose from the Fellowship House to my rescue.

Lucy came across the street and asked me if I wanted to get clean, and knowing that my lifestyle would probably kill me in the near future, I said “Yes”. Lucy told me she could send me to detox and then to a program in Boston that could help me. All that I had to do was meet her the next day and be ready to go, so I agreed. However, when the next day came I was in my “abandiminium” (a term we use on the streets for abandon buildings) getting high and really did not have any trust in what she said. Lucy did not give up on me. She came and got me from where I was and said it was time to go. At that point, I realized that my life was going to change but I needed one last drink because I was sick. So with my own money, she let me buy my last 40 oz. of Colt 45 and I quickly drank it and was led to the shower. There was a complete change of clothing there for me and after I took my shower there was about a quarter of an inch of mud on the shower floor. When I looked in the mirror, I could not believe how I looked. I looked like one of those starving people in the German concentration camps. After getting dressed, I was taken to the detox in Cherry Hill where I went through alcohol withdraw. When detox was over, I was taken to the transportation center where I said my goodbyes to Minister Davis and Lucy, and off I went to Boston.

When I arrived in Boston, I was met by the brothers that belonged to what was called “Teen Challenge”. Teen Challenge was all about doing the right thing, however I was experiencing some difficulty. I had begun hearing voices telling me to do harm to myself so I was sent to the hospital where it was determined that I was suffering from severe depression that came from the lack of the foreign substances in my body (drug and alcohol). Therefore, I was placed on medication. I continued taking my medication and the voices eventually went away. In the meantime, I had applied for housing and social security while living in the shelter.

At the end of October, I was sitting in an N.A. meeting in the shelter and my counselor came to the meeting room and asked to speak with me. I came out of the meeting and he handed me the keys to my brand new condo and my retroactive check from social security in the amount of \$2500.00. I was so happy that I got scared. I never had that much money at one time in my entire life. I’m ashamed to say, but in Camden, every time I would get twenty dollars I would buy 2 nicks of crack, pack of cigarettes, and a forty of beer. When I got into my condo I sat there in my new home with all of that money afraid that I was going to “use”, so I called a recovering addict and we went to a meeting. After that, I was good to go. I’m presently a senior in college attending the

Massachusetts College of Art and Design and have recently won a fellowship nomination to go to Yale for the summer to represent the college as an artist.

None of this would have been possible without the help and persistence of Lucy DuBose and I owe the Fellowship House and especially Lucy my life with great appreciation. I just cannot believe how good life is clean. God has a plan for me.