

I Get to Go to Work

I first came to Joanie July 20, 2007. I had gotten out of jail a month prior, had gotten baptized in jail, and had also come to the realization that by faith through grace we are saved! It was nothing I did.

When I got out of jail I thought I could do it myself, but within a month I found myself backsliding, starting down that same path I had already been on. I don't know why it's so hard to walk into a place and say, "I can't do this," but it is. Pastor Dave and Donna Roth were the ones that baptized me in jail, and Pastor Dave had mentioned the Walking It Out program. When I came to the realization I couldn't do it on my own I walked into the church and said, "I need God and I need help." I had nowhere to stay that would not be detrimental to my conviction of staying off the wrong path.

Joanie took me under her wing as it were, helping me realize how much God loved me and had a purpose for my life. I had lost everything you see: my husband, my children, my peace and my joy! The system and their programs had failed me. Trying to get and stay clean without God was impossible for me!

The Walking It Out and Reconciliation Ministries first reconciled me with God and the knowledge that He loves me and that if I fall, I can get back up. Joanie has been there with love and encouragement and backs everything up with scripture.

Today as I stay obedient to God and His Word, He is blessing my socks off. I am living in a three bedroom duplex. I have a job, I love, cooking at the Marriot Hotel, and have the rare privilege to get in my car and think, "I get to go to work!" I was recently granted full custody of my children Abby and Cody. On December 1, 2008 my children moved home. God has reunited and restored my family. In God all things are possible.

At the Milestone Night on November 22, 2008 I was placed into the level two portion of Walking It Out "Service Development" where I will be learning to serve others and step into God's Calling for my life. I am looking forward to giving back to God and others for the all that God has done in my life.

In conclusion, Joanie's love for me and her teaching of God's love for me, and being held accountable for my actions has made me a better person. I like who I am in Christ and without the program, I don't believe I would be where I am today. That is a child of the Most High God who just wants to love me and be loved by me. I thank God everyday for putting people such as Joanie and Pastor Dave on my path because the alternative is unthinkable.