



Update

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Vernon & Martha Hedge

“The most powerful experience of my life”

On Brett's first day on the Calvary International Bible Institute campus, he was in my class. By the time the class was over, he was beaming with joy. After talking with him, I could sense not only the freedom in his spirit, but his deep commitment to the service of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Brett's parents divorced when he was eight-years old and when his mother remarried Brett had a stepfather come into his life. The parents were overly strict, and although they didn't have a strong Bible foundation, they pretty much accepted basic biblical morality. Their application of rules was legal and the attitude was somewhat like “children are to be seen and not heard.” He felt he didn't have any breathing room, and in his youth, he chose to rebel.

He said, *“My life was empty, without hope and reckless, lacking purpose, and looking for love in all the wrong places, so I began experimenting with drugs and alcohol in high school.”* With overly strict parents, Brett felt closed in so to rebel provided a false freedom. He said, *“Rebellion seemed to be really fun and exciting to me. I didn't know that I was trying to fill a void in my life with the way I was living. I thought I was in control because of the false sense of security while living my independent life.”*

Brett worked for a health fitness business as a personal trainer, then moved into sales of memberships

for the fitness firm. He was successful in his job, was using drugs and finally started selling drugs on the side. This led to all that goes into this lifestyle. He said, *“Being deceived, I destroyed relationships, jobs, my health, and went through cycles of losing everything I owned over and over again. When I was down, people and family would try to help me get back on my feet again, but the results of their efforts didn't last.”*

Brett had been successful at hiding his drug addiction from most people, but not from the ones who loved him. He lived a while with his grandmother who was a committed Christian. One day she sat him down and read him the riot act about the way life works. She was straightforward and matter of fact with him that he couldn't continue in his chosen ways.

She sowed the seeds and watered the ground of his heart. Within a month, he started going to church where he received Jesus Christ as his Savior and was water baptized. He started participating in church activities and was even given the honor of being an usher.

Brett was about 27 years old and things looked good for a while, but stormy situations arose. He didn't know how to cope with the stuff hidden deep in his heart. He may have had an intellectual recognition of Jesus, or he may have actually experienced the new birth, but if so, he didn't understand the Lordship of Jesus or the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome.

To cope with the pain, he returned to using drugs, not having any idea of the demonic forces working deep within. He was in and out of relationships, hiding from the deep problems, and avoided responsibilities. Staying up half the night caused him to be late to work which finally drove him to sell drugs to support his habit.

Brett's lifestyle didn't involve robbing anyone, breaking and entering to sell stolen property, or killing. When he was arrested, it was only for selling drugs. He was tried on drug charges and sent to prison. Each time he was locked up Brett would gravitate to reading the Bible and make some effort to move toward the Lord, but demonic forces had strongholds.

His second trip to prison was to a faith-based prison where he became involved in the ministry, did some teaching, even ministered the Word a few times. He was reading materials and really trying to get his life straightened out, but

The Ever-Present Help

(Continued from page 1)

once again, the source of the deep pain never got dealt with. He said, *“Within six months of being out, I would be using again, would lose my job for being late, and then I would return to selling drugs and living wherever I could.”*

Brett was on the third trip back to prison for drugs again. Despite trouble, he was aware of something guiding the events in his life, and he knows now that the Lord was orchestrating everything in spite of his disobedience, to get him to a place of total life surrender. In his trial the preliminary talk of his sentencing started at 25 years to life in prison, but in the mercy of God he got a five-year sentence.

While in the county jail, awaiting the trial procedures, there was a chaplain who was filled with the Spirit, understood spiritual and emotional healing, and knew how to guide a person to allow the Holy Spirit to pull down strongholds. Under the ministry of this chaplain, Brett said, *I truly submitted to the Holy Spirit that day, September 25, 2014 and confessed every dark secret of my heart. The Holy Spirit revealed past family crime, witchcraft, clusters of wounds, and embedded lies.*

I forgave all offenses one by one, broke soul ties, demons were cast out, all uncleanness was removed with tears flowing and nose blowing. I became clean, healed, and liberated. It was like the sky opened up to me and the Lord poured His Spirit into me. It was the most powerful experience in my life.

Brett knows the power of the overcoming life and how to cope with life's problems—in the power of the Holy Spirit. He is a serious student in the Bible Institute of Calvary Commission and I look forward to seeing what God has for him in the Kingdom work. ✨

When we receive personal words from the Lord, we must test them by comparing them to the Scriptures for content and intent. If it's from the Holy Spirit, it will never violate His word. One of my students received this word from the Lord and shared it with me. I found it encouraging and wanted to share it with my newsletter family.

I love you. I love you with a greater love than you can comprehend. I sat aside the perfections and pleasures of heaven to offer Myself as a sacrifice for your sins. I became a man so I could intimately understand your earthly battles with the flesh, the world, and the evil forces that come against you day by day. I suffered as no person on earth will ever suffer. I was despised, spit upon, and beaten beyond human recognition. I was nailed to a cross where I shed my divine blood as an atonement for your sins. I rose from the grave in three days victorious over every enemy of life you will ever face. I Am YOUR RISEN SAVIOR!

When you are facing trails and temptations of life, remember you are never alone. I have given you the Holy Spirit to comfort, teach, and guide you. He is in you and will empower you through every step of your spiritual journey.

Read my Word at the beginning of each day. Be salt and light in a world of darkness and confusion. Boldly tell others of my love for them. Proclaim without shame the way of salvation, trusting the Holy Spirit to draw hearts and souls unto Me! Serve and worship me faithfully in the local body of believers I place you in. Do not expect the world to reward you for your obedience to Me. I am storing up your rewards in heaven where you will enjoy them throughout eternity. I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE!

Satan will try to distract, discourage and defeat you. He will use difficult circumstances to plant seeds of hatred and bitterness in your heart. RESIST

HIM! Give all your pain to Me, all your persecutions, and all your problems in your life, give them all to Me. They are not yours to bear! THEY ARE MINE AND I HAVE ALREADY BORN THEM!

Bring all the bitterness and brokenness of your past to Me. I am not the Author of your tragedies you have had to experience in life, but in my Sovereignty, I will work out all things to your good and my Glory. Stand firm in my authority of my Word and Trust me for Victory! Through Me you can Triumph over every challenge and trail of life. I am your Counselor and Conquering King!

Never forget I am continually interceding to the Father on your behalf. You will walk through many trails in life. EXPECT THEM! But at the time, rest in unwavering assurance of My Power, My Promises, My Provisions. I will lead you only where my Grace will sustain you. You will not always understand the divine plan I have for your life. Trust Me. Trust in Me and Me alone, because therein lies your joy, your strength, and your success! ✨



A Note:

All 2016 donor tax receipts have been mailed. If you did not get your receipt or have questions, please contact us.

A friendly reminder that all checks should be made out to “Calvary Commission,” and yes, we receive all gifts. Thank you!