

I grew up in a pretty
unhappy home my parents
fought about every thing we
were the loud house on the
block. Somewhere along the
way they had decided after
having two boys that
maybe adopting a baby
girl would make my mom
happy and help fix their
marriage it didn't. I was
a tomboy and daddy's
girl which made her even
worse. We went to church
on sundays dressed up
and smiling for everyone
appearance was every thing
to my mom but behind
closed doors she was an
angry verbally abusive
woman. I was led to believe
god was disappointed in
pretty much every thing
I did and if I didn't
smarten up I was going
to hell. My dad finally
left when it was twelve
saying he'd come back for
me she got angrier yet.
Around that time I
discovered drugs and alcohol
I loved them I finally
felt like I fit somewhere
being able to completely lose

myself was a feeling
I enjoyed very much.
at 14 I went to live
with my dad who sent
no guilt set no rules so
I ran pretty wild through
high school which
carried on into my 20's
when I met my daughter's
dad I had straightened
out for awhile so we
had a beautiful baby
girl and life was quiet.
When she was a toddler
he lost his job and I
got a second job in
a night club to help
support us. Drinks were
free and then I discovered
cocaine I could go for
days without stopping
I was hooked. Me and
her dad separated and
I met and fell in love
with a man who also
loved cocaine but hated
my drinking with a
passion it was the only
thing we really fought
about. I would quit for
a little while go to
meetings, I tried rehab
but it would always
start back up again

He'd threaten to leave
I stop for a few weeks
till he was happy then
start sneaking drinks
again. All I'd ever wanted
was a family of my own
where I felt loved and
I was driving them away
because I just couldn't
stop self-destructing. After
15 years he hadn't left
and I just stopped
pretending to be serious
about quitting I didn't
know how to face a
day without drugs or
alcohol. My days became
making up shaking so bad
I could barely get a
cup to my mouth then
I'd throw up my first
drink as soon as it hit
my stomach after I
got a couple down I'd
be able to function and
start checking for bruises,
sprains, goosebumps from
the night before there
was always something
but I never remembered
how I got them blackouts
were a daily thing I'd
drink all morning then
start doing cocaine to

try and straighten
out for a few hours
when the family got
home. I hated my life
I just didn't know how
to make myself stop,
then one day he came
home and said I'm leaving
you'll never get help
if I stay and I'm not
going to watch you die.
Within a week he left
I received an eviction
notice and my daughter
went to live with her
grandparents I had
officially lost everyone
and everything. I spent
about a week having a
pity party that ended
me up in the hospital.
I decided I needed to try
and fix myself I never
touched drugs again
after that and managed
to stop drinking for a
few months. Before
relapsing again I got
bad real fast this time
and I knew if I didn't
stop this one would kill
me so I asked my stepdad
to take me to detox. When
I was in detox I heard

about Shayil from and called I was told I could enter the program I was scared of change but even more scared of dying. Being reintroduced to God and the bible was a world of difference. I learned about this amazing, loving, forgiving God who thought I was special and worth saving. As soon as I started learning about forgiveness it was life changing I no longer had to wear all my past sins like an ugly t-shirt. I started giving them to God and it was the most freeing experience of my life. I began to lose the guilt and shame I'd always carried trying to numb myself to forget. The more I trusted in him and his words the more blessings I received in return. I know the Lord brought me to Shayil to save me and in return use me to help save others. I feel like him living a dream I've been given the chance

to live the life he intended for me to live. I have a great place to live, a job I love, I'm mending my relationships and most importantly I finally have inner peace. I thank God countless times a day for all the incredible things he is doing in my life. I look forward to the future and all the wonderful things he has in store for me.

I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11