

“Elliana’s” Testimony



I really haven’t talked about my whole story to too many people. Not even my closest friends or family members know everything that I have been through in my life. So, it’s really hard to put this out there in a public paper to people who I don’t even know and probably will never meet. I just hope that some of what I have been through can encourage just one person to keep their hope, to be strong and always hang on to God.

I had a really rough childhood. You could say that it was tough growing up in my family. I have two older siblings that are much older than me. My dad tried to be there for us, but he passed away when I was 11. I had other close family members and my best friend die right around that same time. I remember those were some really dark and painful years. My mom was horrible to us. She may have been having a tough time with my dad dying, but I remember she never had faith in God or knew about Jesus. She always had this idea about hell and believed she was going there. Everyone around her knew that she was so mean and negative inside because of how awful she treated other people. So, needless to say, I didn’t get a very good example about forgiveness, how to love people, how to deal with death of people who are important to me, or how to deal with stress.

I had lots of other struggles that I have had to overcome like severe allergies to dyes in clothing and the fabric of clothing where I would have a terrible allergic reaction and break out in a rash all over. I have struggled with fibromyalgia, depression, pill popping, backwards

dyslexia, blackouts, and more. I have been on so many forms of antibiotics that my body is now immune to them. With all of these struggles, I was hospitalized in psychiatric facilities for a number of reasons because life would just be too overwhelming and my mom would have me committed. A lot of times, I was too difficult for her to handle, so she would send me to my sister’s house for a while. I won’t say that I was the easiest kid to raise, but I wish my mom would have just tried harder to show me she loved me. Even with all of these struggles, I still have this undying and unconditional love for all people. I immediately love a person when I meet them. All people are so special to me. I have been like this all of my life. I just have such a soft spot for people in need and people who are struggling. I think this used to bother my mom when I was growing up because of how mistrusting and mean she was. People used to say that I was her curse because of how kind I was to others and horrible she was to others. We all have lessons to learn in life.

I have so many other experiences that I have been through, really dark things in life that I have had to overcome and trying to overcome my addictions, but I choose not to lose my faith in God. I truly believe He has always been there for me and He still continues to be there for me as we clean up this mess in my life. I have been sober since going to the homeless shelter. That in itself is amazing because of how much pills, meth, heroine, weed, spice, and other things are freely floating and available over there. I believe that God has a bright future for me and my kids who I deeply miss. Two of them are safe, but one has been missing for years with her dad. I have to keep my faith to know that God has more miracles in mind for me, especially with my kids. He has gifted me with this protective nature for kids. It’s almost like a mother bear that will defend and protect them at the risk of dying herself. I feel that need to protect all children, especially if they are in my care. God has already shown me that He hears my prayers and answers me. My prayer every day is to have God give me the strength I need to keep going forward so I can heal from my dark past and finally let go of some things so I can move on. I owe this to Him, my kids, and to myself. I know He hears this prayer, too and I know He will answer. God makes all things new, even my dark past. Thank you for taking the time to read about a little bit of my story. Always remember that God hears you and He loves you so very much!!!

Rock-Solid Foundations Don't Rock

"And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Matthew 7:25 NASB

In Other Words

Harsh rain, wind and floods attacked the house with a rock-solid foundation again and again, yet it still stands to this day because the wise builder knew that a structure is only as strong as its foundation.

Small Bites

- ✓ Storms will come; expect them
- ✓ Expect the winds, fear the floods, and respect the rain
- ✓ A storm-proof house withstands all weather, both gentle and harsh
- ✓ A shifting foundation becomes weaker with every storm
- ✓ A vacillating belief system sets us up to fall
- ✓ A firm foundation doesn't prevent storms, but it insures survival
- ✓ Faith built upon uncertainty will certainly fall
- ✓ Shallow relationships lack solid foundations - so watch out!
- ✓ Weak spiritual commitments are weak foundations
- ✓ Rock-solid foundations hold heavy structures
- ✓ A structure is only as strong as its foundation

Questions and Thoughts to Aid Digestion

What was Jesus talking about here?

What is your belief-system based upon?

Describe your defense against life's storms

Why do you know your values are correct?

What rocks your faith?

What part should the Bible play in a person's faith?

Prayer: Dear Lord, keep me grounded and solid in Scripture and truth. Amen.

On Having the Will

More people make charitable contributions while they are living rather than later through their wills. The truth is, most people never get around to making a will. They die, as the lawyers say, "in testate."

What is there about a will that puts people off? Why do so many of us seem to lack the will to make a will? For one thing, it's inconvenient to find a good attorney, make the appointment, and spend time and money going through the process of gathering information and making decisions. It's much easier to put it off.

A second reason is the dread some feel in contemplating their own death or the death of their spouse. Their will is something they plan to do later. It's always later, and often never gets done.

Another reason for postponing action may relate to the difficulty of dividing up your estate if family conflicts exist, or when unsure how wisely the inherited assets will be used.

Still others lack the will to have a will because they consider their net worth does not merit such a difficult personal task. They think they have too few assets to bother with a will or may assume that everything will go automatically and equally to all members of the family. They do not understand the benefits of a will, not only in settling their estates according to their wishes, but in making their departure easier for their loved ones left behind.

Whatever the reason, making a will takes will power. It requires not only choices but also action.

Salt Lake City Mission knows the difference a will can make. We have witnessed the peace of mind it provides, not only for the principal, but also for family members. We have seen, as well, the great good done when a bequest comes to Salt Lake City Mission. We depend on estate gifts to help us serve future generations in our ministry.

Salt Lake City Mission through **PhilanthroCorp** can help you with creating or updating your will. To learn more about this service, please visit our website at www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html Or call **Susan PhilanthroCorp** at: **1-800-876-7958 Ex. 2125.**

We do hope that you will take advantage of this service, and let us offer a blessing to you and your family.