

Roy's Story

My marriage broke down about 3 ½ years ago. My wife left me for a man she met on the internet. I lost it. I dove heavily into drugs and alcohol. At one point I hit bottom. The only thing I knew to do was pray. I prayed every night. I was starving...on the road...no food. My family had left me because my parents dying and inheritances. I let them have it because all I wanted was the memories. After praying I wanted to come to Las Cruces. I got here and after I got here, some people from church told me about this place. I started helping. They found out I was a chef and had a culinary arts degree since 1985. It was perfect timing because Dennis, the cook, was sick. One morning, they didn't have a breakfast cook. I went from helping at the desk to the kitchen. I prayed about it and realized that pretty much this was what God wanted me to do. I've been in the kitchen every since and I love it back there. I love cooking meals that people don't expect to get at the mission. I have over 30 years of cooking behind me. Like last night I made beef stroganoff...other nights I took prickly pear cactus off of the mission cacti and made a prickly pear habanera sauce. The people loved it! Seeing the people's faces when you put up a meal that would normally cost \$20 and it's at a mission and the guys coming back for 2nds and 3rds! I like feeling wanted. After my wife leaving me and problems with my family, I felt dead inside. In between working here and the miracle that God has done in my life. I had been addicted to drugs very bad and the last couple of years were the worst. I was on the verge of suicide when I came here and four and a half months ago I was save again. God took away any cravings I had for drugs. Now the hardest drug I use is cigarettes and I've cut down on that. It's beautiful to have God come into your life in a way that heals your body, heals your mind, and gives you something to do that you enjoy. I love working back there. I love the kitchen. I made the mop closet into a mini office.

It took me for years to realize that everything I was getting out of drugs and alcohol was fake. It was just a cheap copy of what God can give us. With God, when you're

feeling good and if you stay close to God the feeling stays and it's good for you. The other one tears you apart. It sucks the life out of you and God gives you life.

It's been 138 days. I know this because this is also the amount of days I've been totally clean. What happened was, I was in church sitting in the back and it was a Bible study. For some reason it was more like a revival. I sat near a pole because I needed it to pull myself up because I was in constant pain. A friend said, "Why don't you have a pastor pray for you?" I believed in God but not the power of prayer. I went up front and told him between the pain in my body and my heart and soul I can't take it anymore. I walked up limping in total pain. Afterward, I turned around to walk away and I was walking normally. I walked up normal the flight of stairs and went back inside and ran up the stairs. The pain was gone. Everything, the pain was gone in my back. I used heroin, crack, meth.. I didn't care. I just wanted to take myself away from life. I was addicted. After that day, I had no craving for drugs and everything was gone. I never believed in the power of prayer and now. .. I pray for anything and everything. I talk to God because He listens. If you are absolutely sincere, he will work in your life. I'm living, walking proof. For so many years I was a broken shell of a man, my breathing is perfect, blood pressure, walking... everything that was wrong with me, God changed. I'm in better shape right now than I had been in years. It was just God. Cooking is what I do to make me happy. Now that I can cook and share God at the same time and share love for my fellow man at the same time, the job's a blessing. I can't think of anything else. I don't know why He did it for me because I was so unworthy and had walked away from God. When I finally came to him with a broken heart, he proved to me in 5 minutes what man has been trying to tell me what wrong all of my life was. Knowing this now, I can never walk away. Things have happened that would try to drag me to drugs but all it has done is drive me to my knees in prayer because God is everything to me now.