



# STUDENT JOURNEYS

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**T**he darkest time in my life was when I felt God’s love the most.

This love overwhelmed me to the point that it transformed my entire life—bringing me from the edge of death to a place of indescribable joy and freedom.

One night I had been out drinking with my friends, and they took me to a house. I was offered drugs there, something that I had taken before without any adverse effects, but this time, almost immediately, I couldn’t breathe. I remember lying on the bathroom floor, praying that someone would help me. I gasped for air and grabbed my throat while looking into the eyes of my friend, hoping she would hear my silent cry for help. No one would call for help, because they were afraid they would get in trouble for doing drugs, so they just laid me on the couch to die.

**I felt my body shutting down and my heart beating out of my chest. I couldn’t open my eyes.**

At that moment, I prayed and I knew God was with me. I asked Him to let me live for my daughter’s sake. I kept saying the name of Jesus in my head, and I cried, “Help me, Jesus. Save me!” Something welled up inside of me, and I decided I was going to live. God was with me, and He would carry me through this. And He did.



Shortly after that incident, my world was plunged into unimaginable darkness when I lost my brother to a drug overdose. It was shocking and heartbreaking. My family didn’t know that he was in danger or that he would ever try such a dangerous drug, and neither did I. I knew my brother partied—just like I did and all of our friends did—but I never knew to what extent. I was so close to my brother that I didn’t think there was anything he didn’t tell me, and there were no apparent signs to any of us that this could ever be possible. I can’t explain the aftermath of the events that came on that horrible, tragic day; the deep anger, shock, sadness, and pain that came with that phone call; or the enormity of how our lives fell apart.

**Let’s just say that I didn’t want to live, because I didn’t want to feel the pain anymore.**

I fell into massive depression and anxiety. I was drinking to numb the pain, and the drinking led to drugs. I despaired of life and tried everything from counseling to antidepressants, but those things never got to the root of the pain; they just slightly numbed me and left me hopeless.



After my brother's death, my mom started listening to Andrew Wommack Ministries on television and on CDs. She tried to get me to listen to the CDs, but I wasn't interested. After over a year of suffering with deep-rooted depression, anxiety, and despair, I had a moment in my bedroom when I fell on my knees and cried out to God. I told Him I was done carrying the pain and trying to heal myself and would surrender my life to Him. The Holy Spirit showed me a Bible devotion book on my nightstand that my mom had given me. I opened it to Philippians 4:6-7, and the words on that page jumped into my spirit:

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; [7] and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*  
New King James Version

I was set free! I walked into the bathroom and flushed all my pills, antidepressants, high blood pressure medication, and cigarettes, and I never looked back.

**I was instantly set free of smoking and other addictions.**

I went downstairs and saw a stack of Andrew Wommack CDs that my mom had been trying to get me to listen to since my brother's death. On this day, I finally picked them up and put them in my car. When I heard Andrew teaching the Word, I knew it was the truth. It lit a fire inside me that I could not contain! In all my years of going

to church, I had never ever heard the Gospel preached this way nor had any power, victory, peace, or real joy in my life.

**This was the beginning of an amazing journey of getting to know God through His Word and His Spirit.**



On this journey, I've made mistakes and let "life" distract and delay God's perfect plan for me, but He has been with me each step of the way, eventually leading me to Charis Bible College. I've been a Charis Online student for almost a year now, and I can't even begin to tell you all that's happened.

**Bondages have been broken, spiritual strongholds have come down, I've experienced freedom in my mind and soul, and I'm overjoyed by God's goodness.**

These courses have made me a better wife, mom, leader, businesswoman, and friend. They've also better equipped me to share the revelation of the love of God with others—a love that reaches into the darkest places, delivers us from death, and brings us to a place of abundant life in Him!



If you would like to share your Student Journey, email us at [Online@CharisBibleCollege.org](mailto:Online@CharisBibleCollege.org)  
A staff writer will contact you if your story is selected to be featured in the Charis Community.

