



Steve Price Testimony

I grew up in a Christian home. A by-product of the Jesus Revolution in the late seventies my two brothers, sister and I were raised in a Christian home going to church our entire upbringing. I accepted God in my life when I was a kid, was baptized when I was 13 and grew up loving God with a passion to live my life for Him. Then, freedom to the world entered into my life when I graduated high school and moved out on my own. I was still going to church and had God in my life until I turned 21. I was an aspiring drummer, touring in a band and playing shows in music venues, college campuses, bars and I began living life in the world while I put God away in a closet - and that's where the downfall begins. I started smoking weed, drinking alcohol and living a party lifestyle. Eventually the partying, having fun, weed and alcohol were taking priority in my life. Within 2 years, I was no longer socially drinking, I was drinking very often and to get drunk. At this point, I was also dabbling in crystal meth, mushrooms, ecstasy and acid.

My lifetime dream of being a musician in a band crumbled away. While the other guys moved on in their lives for school and careers, my life became one of "freedom" - no responsibilities, no parents, and no God in my life meant no restrictions. I began living like a rockstar without the fame and fortune. This began the literal journey of my seeking and trying to find happiness, contentment and even purpose to my life. I followed friends, fun, drugs and alcohol wherever it led me.

I had a friend in Portland, Oregon, so I moved up there for a summer, working just enough to pay for drugs, alcohol and partying. From there to Breckenridge, Colorado with some friends for a winter, working just enough to support my partying lifestyle. Back to Portland for 6 months, then to Chicago for six months and finally back to Breckenridge where I lived for 20 years. The drugs, drinking and party lifestyle became my life. Before I committed to the Bridge program, I hit my breaking point because I was entirely reliant on cocaine and alcohol to live my daily life. I drank alcohol to escape how lost I truly was in life, and then I would do cocaine in order to keep drinking! I was seeking fulfillment in my life through women, partying and whatever helped me to escape thinking about the pain in my life of emptiness.

Fortunately, my family, through years of prayer and a lot of coercion, helped convince me about the Bridge program. Two years ago, God began the miracle of restoration in my life through the Bridge ministry. A close friend of mine, a graduate of the program also, talked about how the program forces you to grow up! No matter your age, if you're married, have kids or a career, in one way or another our addictions (whatever they were) were vices that helped us escape dealing with issues in our lives. **12 months living with 18 strangers - God is the only place to escape.** This is why I appreciated so much the daily morning devotions in the house, which opened the hearts and minds to God and his word. I benefited from the culinary program in that it instilled in me a new confidence in my sobriety of conquering a challenge I didn't think I could do. Now I have a certificate from a 4-month cooking course as well. These things could seem small or insignificant but not when you instill, in a person that's broken, a sense of accomplishment. I also have enjoyed immensely the free courses of bible theology that the program provides. The Urban Ministry Institute, or TUMI, provides a more in-depth study of God, his word, and I plan to use all that positive life-altering knowledge in whatever way God has planned for me in the future. I am now taking full advantage of the affordable living in the men's second phase home in Seaside while working for Trader Joe's in Monterey.

The program has truly helped me by giving me the opportunity, the time and tools it required to restart my life on the right path with God. People check into different rehab facilities but the Bridge program makes a world of a difference because it is a ministry helping to restore people's lives the way God intended them to be. God created us to have lives filled with joy, love, contentment, purpose and most importantly to be complete. The Bridge has helped me to refocus my life on Jesus and my desire to live a full life for Him.

Executive Director's Corner Mike Casey



Partnership with Monterey County Jail

The Bridge has had the privilege to partner with Monterey County Jail at their job fair for the past five years. Inmates, both men and women, who are nearing their release date are offered the opportunity to hear from members of the community who were previously incarcerated and are now out in the community being productive members of society.

We heard from two employees of Cal Fire, a gentleman who now

works with veterans, and a representative from R.J.P. (Restorative Justice Partners). As well as our very own Vanessa Estrada, who was able to share with the inmates the

hope that she has found in Jesus Christ. They were also allowed to visit with employers that were willing to offer employment following their release.

This year the Bridge was honored with three different awards for their ongoing work with the jail. Following the ceremony, the Bridge culinary program was able to serve 150 inmates and staff with a taco bar that they prepared. Most of the Bridge culinary program team who served the jail were previously incarcerated before coming to the Bridge. What an honor it was to serve the Monterey County Jail.



Vanessa sharing the hope of Jesus



Culinary Program served inmates & staff tacos



Awards for The Bridge



James Culinary Finale

Each of the Culinary Program students are also residents of The Bridge residential program. The Culinary program curriculum is typically completed over 16 weeks, depending on how quickly the students' progress. Since the program is self-study, the pace depends on the individual student as they work through online coursework as well as tactical lessons in the kitchen. We are glad to announce another graduate of the Bridge Culinary Program, Chef James!

James' culinary final was one to be remembered... not only did he serve delicious food, but he paired each course with a song! How fun!! The event opened up with "Brasil" by Ray Coniff for an upbeat, jazzy start! The meal began with a mixed green salad with a nice vinaigrette decorated with a strawberry rose paired with the theme to "A Summer's Place" by Percy Faith. The entree was a choice of beef short ribs "barbacoa style" accompanied by risotto and carrots, or for the non-meat eaters, a portobello mushroom in place of the ribs paired with "No Quiero Mas" by Selena. Finally, James introduced his "world-famous" blueberry-lemon explosion cake,

See **Culinary** other side

Second Chance Spotlight Stores with Hope

Our heart at Second Chance Thrift Store is to not only sell used items that have been donated, but also to be a light to the community. We are so grateful for all the amazing donations that come in to Second Chance. We are very aware that there are many great organizations that people can send their donated items. So, when people choose to send their donations here, we are more than grateful.



In addition to being a thrift store we want to be a store that provides hope. Often when people are shopping here at Second Chance they do so because they want to support what is going on here. The stores are a vocational outlet of the Bridge Restoration Ministry recovery program for those with addictions. Customers also enjoy interacting with our staff and residents that are in the program. Many conversations of hope are started on the sales floor. We call those divine appointments. Meaning that someone who is shopping happens to get

into a conversation with one of our residents or staff members where someone shares part of their story or journey. Often those spontaneous interactions happen and someone leaves the store filled with hope or encouragement rather than just items they purchased. People also come in looking for resources in the community when they realize we are a recovery program, not just a thrift store. It is our privilege to be here in the community as both as a store that doubles as a resource and a place to find hope while shopping.

Thank you all for donating and shopping at Second Chance Thrift Store in Pacific Grove and Monterey. Your support really does make a difference.



Culinary *from other side*

which did indeed explode with flavor paired with “A Sunshine Day” by The Brady Bunch. Great work, James!

What started out with a bleak and discouraging, yet hilarious, pizza crust disaster (powdered sugar mistakenly selected as flour), has culminated in James routinely and confidently demonstrating his baking expertise and celebrating his graduation from The Bridge Culinary Program says the Culinary Director, Greg Miller. He also commented on James’ energy and sense of humor have brought an infectious vitality to the kitchen and, while we praise his effort and accomplishment, we will miss his presence. His chapter in The Bridge Culinary lore will go down as one of the thickest. Congratulations to Chef James!



105 Central Ave.
Pacific Grove
831-717-4479

443A Lighthouse Ave
Monterey
831-324-0143

STORE HOURS: Mon, Wed, Sat 9-5 and
Tues, Thurs, Fri 10-6

Website: secondchancepg.com

WANTS & NEEDS

For The Bridge Residences

If you are interested in helping us in any of these areas please contact us!!!

Volunteers

Bridge:

- Mentors
- Drivers
- Fundraising
- Resident Supplies
- Heavy Duty Bunk Beds
- Multi-Use Building
- Benefits for employees

Second Chance Thrift Stores:

- Merchandising

Visit: tbrm.org/wantsandneeds for current wants and needs updates.



The Bridge
LIFE RESTORED
RESTORATION MINISTRY
Faith ■ Family ■ Community
P.O. Box 113 | Pacific Grove, CA 93950
W tbrm.org | T 831-372-2033

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 27
Monterey
CA 93940