

## MY JOURNEY WITH ADDICTION

Ovie Mahue (2 1/2 years sober)

**ROC: Thank you for taking time to speak with us today. So tell us Ovie, how much clean time are you celebrating and are readers want to know, how did you get started using drugs and why?**

**Ovie:** I will be celebrating 3 years of sobriety June 22 of this year. I got started using meth shortly after my ex-fiancé cheated on me with my best friend. I was already an alcoholic, so I grabbed myself another bottle and went to go hang out with a friend who was living along the bike path. I so wanted to drown my sorrows, and as the saying goes, “misery loves company.” So off I went to go hang out with an old friend. I was so disappointed so I begged my friend to let me try meth to make this feeling of despair go away. So, reluctantly he passed me the bubble, after that it was all downhill, which quickly turned into a daily IV user.



**ROC: Some say that the life of an addict is life and death, have you ever experienced this?**

**Ovie:** Yes, when you are sucked into this world of darkness and hopelessness at some point you learn to accept that this drug will and at any point can kill you. Unfortunately, you begin to accept the fact that you just don't care anymore. It then causes you to believe the thought of it killing you faster and begins to feel comforting to you.

**ROC: What made you seek out a recovery program?**

**Ovie:** I had tried a couple of times before to get clean, but it wasn't working for me. I was aware how much damage and pain it was causing to my family and friends, so I battled with the desire to get clean and the enticement to continue using. However, to my family it was no surprise these programs didn't work for me. It wasn't until the last time I was in jail (which was one of many) I called one of the only phone numbers that I had memorized, which was my Mom. Of course, as usual, she answered and for whatever reason during this phone call she told me that I was on every prayer chain she could possibly get me on. The prayer was that the Holy Spirit would come and change my heart. I immediately burst to tears and felt overwhelming peace and happiness for the first time in years. It was right there I rededicated my life to my lord and savior Jesus Christ and it was from that very moment on that I knew I was going to be okay.

**ROC: What have you learned about being in recovery and what advice would you give to others thinking about starting a recovery program?**

**Ovie:** I learned so much while I was in recovery. Tools to help me deal with addiction even while still being clean, and a much better understanding of how the mind of an addict worked also helped me to personally understand the reasons I have always been and always will have the mind of an addict. Some advice I would give to other's thinking about trying a program, if you are even considering a program why not just give it a try, worse that happens is you don't go again. Also, make sure you're getting clean for yourself. Let family and friends be a motivator, but you got to learn to love yourself enough to want to quit.



**ROC: One last question, what has changed for you today since making that decision in getting into a recovery program?**

**Ovie:** Oh man everything has changed. I went from living on the bike path alone to now having a beautiful young family, my wife Paige and my daughter Ariyah. We have our own place, nice cars and we are surrounded by family and love. I have found happiness love and peace since I have gotten clean.