

When I first arrived at Calvary Ranch, I was absolutely a doubting Thomas sister. I never dreamed this program would actually work. I was skeptical! And I wanted proof. Even when drinking had its stronghold on me, I still loved God. I'd been saved for years But certainly wasn't leading a Christian life by any means. So how was a program like this one going to address, help me stop my drinking problem ?

I was a poster child for a person surviving only under God's permissive will verses His perfect will for my life. And believe me there were serious consequences as a result of straying off God's chosen path. From DUI's, wrecking cars, losing my license, attorney's fees, I hit them all. I've spent the entire time since my husband died a horrible tragic death from cancer, instead of getting stronger in the Lord and turning to him for support and guidance, drinking to self medicate and kill the pain.

Yet, you know how our loving Father is, I have been blessed over the last 30 days to Have the opportunity [at Calvary Ranch] to sit at my master feet and absorb his wisdom. I'm especially thankful for Calvary Ranch, Pastor Tom and his wife Paulette. These two have not only developed the Ranch to be what it is today, but have given so much of themselves, because of their ultimate love for God. From all the work they do, the personal sacrifices they have made, the painstaking effort they have put into selecting their staff, the love they both demonstrate and give to others, a person can't help but know God is in control and at work here at the Ranch, and that the Ranch is equipping us to take what we've gained and share it with others.

I learned a lot of things here, along with many valuable lessons, but the most important thing was that I don't have to buy into the AA philosophy that once a drunk always a drunk. I instead choose to claim, 2nd Corinthians 5:17. ' Therefore; if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new!'

God is stronger than any temptation Satan puts in our path. God has forgiven me of all my confessed sins. It doesn't matter how I got to where I am now, it's how I fix things going forward from this point on. I have chosen to no longer focus on the problems that come my way, but instead look to the problem solver- He's gotten me this far. I plan on Him seeing me through until the day he calls me home.

Sister Debra Laubish