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## Di's Story!

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My name is Diana Marie Wolfe Bernal. I am a 33-year-old mama of 3 amazing, strong, loving kids. My oldest, Dorrian William, is 11. My second born, Dante Drew, is 8, and my youngest and only daughter, Mylah Jo, is 5. They are my life's purpose and gifts directly from God. I am from Porterville, CA, but had to journey to receive the help, healing, treatment, and

recovery that personally ONLY Captive Hearts could give me.

I was brought into this world by 16-year-old parents who loved me, but weren't quite ready. They never married. My mom did marry when I was 5 years old to my ex-stepfather who abused me and stole my innocence up until a falling out when I was yanked from my mom. My mom made the best decision for me ever. She signed over custody of me to her parents, my own angels on earth who I call Papa and Gram. They rescued me from the devastating life that I was accustomed to as a little girl—"my saviors."

More and more trauma occurred even after that. After hiding severe mental illness from my childhood trauma, I attempted suicide at 15 years old. They were able to save my life, but my resentments toward this "God fellow" began. I was about to get out from the psychiatrist's stronghold shortly after and gained a semi-teenage life. Three quarters into my junior year at age 16, the worst tragedy of all happened. My Papa suddenly passed away—he was gone! That man was my hero, my Papa, Dad, best friend, my world—and he was gone! That's when the heavy, daily drinking started, then the use of heavy drugs. I was so mad at God and blamed Him for all of my pain. I ran away from anything having to do with God, religion... any of it. Since my Papa's death, I became an alcoholic, meth and prescription pill addict of the worst kind.

Having my first child was a life-changing experience, but only temporarily. The disease of addiction does NOT discriminate. I got married, had two more kids, and relapsed off and on. But in 2014, that relapse ended up costing me my kids to Child Welfare Services. I committed my first felony at age 30, and did time in the Tulare County Jail soon after. My babies went to foster care, and then my Gram got temporary custody until

I was rehabilitated and able to get them back on my own in June of 2016. My husband and I were separated in 2015, and in the fall of 2016. He earned half of his parental rights back, and just in time, because I relapsed again on meth that same fall. The social worker temporarily gave the kids to their dad until I could pass a drug test in November 2016. Then our 50/50 custody began. It was time, I needed serious help. I was not okay still and decided in-home rehabilitation was the only way, but I needed healing above all.

I came from a Christian background, but stayed angry with the Lord to protect myself, which made it easy to block any knowledge of truth out regarding the Bible, Jesus, and God. Through all the rebellion, however, I felt a force hanging onto me. I knew Who and what it was. My aunt led me to an interview at Captive Hearts. I expressed that rebellion and was still invited into the program. My inner spirit and soul knew what I needed—a Savior and the Truth. Within a week of being in Captive Hearts, Jesus broke through all my resistance and walls. He let me know who He was, and I felt a deep pull. I was able to let go and trust my so-called life with the Lord for the first time ever! Jesus began quickly lifting fear so I could open all the doors of my past. I literally felt Him wrap me in His comforting, loving arms. I was told that He never left my side through all the devastation. Then, in a group called "Overcomers," I heard the Lord's voice audibly and very clearly. He let me know my Papa was in heaven with Him and that the loss of him has a greater purpose—and so do I. My broken heart was healed instantly, and I could really trust Him and start this healing journey. I felt freedom and peace for the first time ever, directly from my Savior Jesus. He started delivering me from all of my rage, distrust, violent behavior, and blessed me with the fruit of self-control. These were the very emotions, problems, and road blocks that kept me from my Savior. He took care of it all.

I was baptized in the ocean by LeeAnn and Cyd, counselors at Captive Hearts. The Holy Spirit told me and others that I have the gift of evangelism and encouragement. And I believe it and felt it in my soul. Captive Hearts is led by the Holy Spirit and leads us to the Holy Spirit. I'll always be thankful and feel blessed and highly favored. I now get to LIVE and give my kids a "life" for the first time ever, and I'm forever grateful! This is the real Cinderella story, and the main character is Jesus Christ.

—Di

<b>Praise Reports</b>	<b>Fundraisers For August/Sept.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Chaplain Judy's son, Marc, whose life was spared from a very serious motorcycle accident. He had two fractured vertebrae in his neck but was released from the hospital. The doctors said he should have died, but Jesus spared his life.</li> <li>◇ Great sales at Second Chances store</li> <li>◇ Favor in the community</li> </ul>	<p>Our yearly drive to raise money for the recovery homes is in effect August through September. Our goal is to raise \$60,000 that will enable us to help more women who come into our program. Many come to us straight from County Jail or prison and have nothing but the clothes on their back. At the present time, we have a waiting list of precious women wanting to be admitted to our program. For you that do not know, our success rate is approximately 78%, much higher than most homes. <b>WHY?</b> Because it is faith based and Christ centered. The women know this when they come to us. Many have tried other programs and tactics to be healed, but find their healing at Captive Hearts. Will you please consider giving to help us raise our goal?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://AMAZONSMILE.COM">AMAZONSMILE.COM</a></p> <p>If you shop on Amazon, would you join many of our donors and log on to <i>amazonsmile.com</i> when you make a purchase? You can choose our charity, Captive Hearts, and a percentage of your sale will go toward our organization.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#"><b>GOLF TOURNAMENT</b></a></p> <p>In September, a golf tournament will be held to profit Captive Hearts. Lance Jubelt is coordinating the event. Please contact the office and leave a message for him if you are interested in being a participant.</p>
<b>Seeds &amp; Needs</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Good Christian books</li> <li>◆ New donors</li> <li>◆ Donations for our store</li> <li>◆ Volunteer promotional person</li> <li>◆ Volunteer person to update and provide changes to our website</li> <li>◆ Volunteers for County Jail ministry</li> <li>◆ Mentors</li> <li>◆ Continued prayers and support for our recovery homes</li> <li>◆ Names of those who would like to receive our monthly newsletter</li> <li>◆ Ask your local bank for a scholarship application from their Marketing Dept. and bring by our office. Most banks do this, but we need a specific contact name to be able to request a donation.</li> <li>◆ Wanted: sellers with used cars, trailers, RVs to partner with MissionCars. We receive a check for their repairing and selling the item. If the car is in good condition, we help our women by giving them an automobile when they graduate.</li> </ul>	
<b>Congratulations!</b>	<b>Wanted!</b>
	<p>Volunteers for our Second Chances resale store. If you would like to reach out and be a part of a wonderful organization, please consider giving 4 hours a week working with some phenomenal ladies, sorting and selling items at Second Chances, 911 W. Grand Ave., right next to the Post Office in Grover Beach.</p>
<p>We are so proud of you, Cayse, for completing six months in our program. We wish you the best as you continue your journey in following Jesus!</p>	<b>Thank you!</b>
	<p>Recently, Chaplain Judy and her sister, Jan, moved into a new house. Many thanks to those who helped out in the moving: Eli Goodenough and her team—Karen, Rene, Tim, Phil, John, Patrick—and the Salgado family. They could not have done this without the hours of help you provided. Many thanks to all and for those of you who prayed for them to find the right home.</p>