

“Faith and Acceptance” from Maggie an ex-inmate

When I first came to Kairos the first thing I said was "I don't know what the heck am I doing here!" It was pretty obvious my mind and heart were not open.

I had a Christian childhood. I went to Sunday school and even stayed for the service afterwards. As an adult I had walked a long way away from that early faith. For an atheist I had a pretty strong belief in God and a correspondingly strong belief that he was the cause of all my troubles.

I was the least likely person in that first Kairos family to become a Christian. But when I prayed (yes, me – I prayed) my prayer took an unexpected turn. I found myself asking Jesus to walk with me. As soon as I realized what I had done I thought "Damn now I've done it." I felt an obligation to God to be true to my word and stick it out. It was a pretty shaky start to my Christian walk. No big flash of light or overnight conversion for me.

It has been a hard slog but worth it. The Holy Spirit has worked in me and for me in so many ways. That does not mean God is like the tooth fairy and waves a magic wand or leaves money under the pillow. What it does mean is a change in me - heart mind and soul. I have been saved. Saved in the obvious way of accepting Jesus and being put right with God, but also saved from myself: the misery inside; the growing bitterness that was eating me away; the lack of forgiveness that was like a cancer in me.

I am not a perfect person or a perfect Christian. But I am a lot better off than when I started and I thank God for that. And I thank God that his promise is to walk with me for the rest of my life, helping me to gradually improve despite setbacks, supporting me despite troubles; and giving me the strength to face my problems and not look for a scapegoat. Improving until the day I join him and am made perfect in heaven.

His grace and His love is so strong that He forgave me - hate and all, half-hearted start and all. There is nothing half-hearted about God once you accept Him through Jesus into your life; He will stick by you for the rest of your life, for the rest of eternity. He is not a magic wand but if you accept Him into your life He can work miracles.

I'm proof of that.