



# Brenda's Story of Hope

I first came to Bridge of Hope and the Healing House two years ago. Before I came, I had a nervous breakdown due to my 19-year-old daughter's murder on March 30th that year. I was broken and on the verge of suicide. I was confused...I knew that I had a drug problem, but I also knew that I had a life problem. It was more than just my addiction, it was my lifestyle and how I allowed things to affect me. What was important to me were material things and what people thought of me. My pride and ego held me hostage in my mind and worldly environment. I had no spirituality and no foundation. I was trying to work the 12 steps to sobriety, but was doing the things that I wanted to do, and there was no change. I had no relationship with God...nothing. The only thing that kept me going was my relationships with my family and significant other and none of us knew anything about God. There was no hope. After coming to this ministry, I learned about Jesus and see now how He died to save me. I understand everything about what He has done for me and what He has sacrificed for me. I know now the life He wants me to have today. I want to let Him mold and shape my thinking. My addictions have been and are being addressed and are no longer swept under the rug. The doom and despair I felt when I first came compared to how I feel now is like night and day. Now that I have come to know the Lord, it isn't about how other people view me; it's about how God views me. I can get out of myself and see the sunshine of the Lord now. Today, God has reunited my family. I have 2 beautiful daughters and 3 grandchildren. I have also introduced them to Jesus Christ and am hoping to do the same for the next generation to come. I share the hope that I have with other who are dealing with the same diagnoses that I have had with HIV, diabetes, bipolar, and other things. They ask me how I deal with these things while being sober and I share the hope that Jesus gives in each of these situations. I am sold out for Him today and am an empty vessel wanting to be used by God to lead many people to Jesus.