

DRIFTING from the Truth

Drifting from the truth can happen when one is not securely connected to Jesus. The Lord will not let you slip or drift away if you're holding on to Him.

Rebecca Vail grew up in a Christian home and in the church. At the age of 8, she accepted Christ, however she will be the first to tell you, "He was my God, my Savior but not my Friend." At the age of 18, her family moved to Knoxville. The move led to a string of tough times: depression, finding comfort in boyfriends, hanging in the "wrong" crowd and occasionally doing drugs and alcohol.

At the age of 22, after years of partying, Rebecca was pregnant and had just ended her relationship with the child's biological father. She was living back at home and working full time. Following the birth of her daughter, Abby, Rebecca agreed to go on a date with a guy that had been asking her for quite some time. During that first date, she knew that someday she would marry Steve.

Her hunch was right - in August 2002, after 7 months of dating, Steve and Rebecca were married. Steve officially adopted her daughter, Abby, the next year. Two weeks after their honeymoon, Rebecca found out she was expecting. Steve and Rebecca's daughter Katie was born in May 2003.

After Katie's birth, life became stressful for Rebecca. She found herself with a colicky baby, an 18-month-old

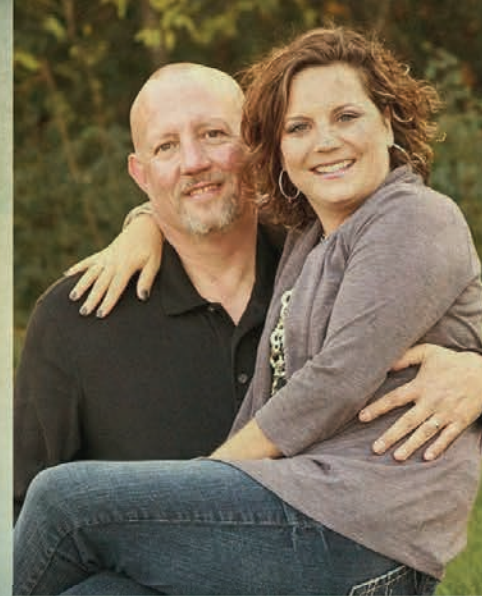
toddler and Steve had a heart attack. That's when the headaches began so her doctor prescribed medication to help her out. But the pills were doing more than just getting rid of the headaches they were covering up all her stress and depressed feelings.

She began a downward spiral: she couldn't stop taking the pills without getting sick and she thought she needed them to get through the day. She was addicted. Steve tried telling her, but she refused to believe the truth. She was drifting from any form of the truth.

Her doctor stopped prescribing her pain pills. She became so desperate she started stealing pills from the pharmacy where she worked which resulted in her being fired. Rebecca then ran into some of her old friends who introduced her to cocaine. Her daily routine became putting the kids in the car, going through a drive thru to get them something to eat and then taking them to a house where she would pick up pills or cocaine.

Steve took note of her odd behavior and decided to follow her one day. After realizing she was going to a crack house, he filed for emergency custody of the girls. Rebecca received a phone call from Steve's attorney telling her that she could not go home, see the girls or go to her parent's or sister's homes. Rebecca was livid. She told them that she didn't have a problem. She found herself drifting from the truth again, living with a drug dealer and only getting supervised visits with her daughters.

Rebecca could not break away from the drugs. Her family even brought in an interventionist from Atlanta who said she was the toughest case he had ever seen. Weeks turned into months



and Rebecca spent the first Christmas without her family. The loneliness set in. At this point, the drug dealer himself told her she needed help. Rebecca checked into a rehab facility in Atlanta for 4 months. She was determined to lie, cheat and make them believe she was getting better...anything to get her daughters back.

After returning back to Knoxville, however, she was back with the same "old friends" while continuing to receive treatment from rehab centers locally. She continued living a lie and drifting from the truth.

In the summer of 2006, Rebecca filed for divorce. Steve refused to sign the papers, told her that she was sick and began praying over her. She was in and out of the house, sometimes gone for days, weeks or months at a time. She had relapsed and this time, she was into cocaine, smoking crack and using IV drugs.



A Gift from God.

The following summer, Rebecca was down to 90 pounds and partying in crack houses and hotel rooms around town. One night, after taking one pill, Rebecca passed out...and was out for 3 days. She went home to Steve and confessed that she needed help, something was not right. She went to the doctor and found out that she was pregnant.

Steve asked me what I was going to do. I told him that this was my baby and he just looked at me and said, "well, it's my baby too." Rebecca went to detox but relapsed yet again. At this point, she was not only damaging herself, but also causing potential harm to the baby.

One night, Rebecca was in a hotel room and had enough drugs in one syringe to kill her. "I was shaking and I didn't care if I died but I was about to kill my baby!" She threw the needle across the room and decided to go back for another week of detox and then to rehab. This was July 22, 2007, and Rebecca has been sober since!

Nathan was born in February 2008, a healthy and beautiful baby boy. "I believe God sent Nathan to save my life. His name is 'A Gift from God!'"

Today, Rebecca has been sober for almost 5 years. Rebecca has a birth date, but the date that she truly celebrates each year is her sober date. On that day, she was freed from her chains and no longer drifting from the Truth!

*He was my God,
my Savior but
not my Friend.*