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MAGAZINE



BOB WILLIAMSON FROM HELL TO PEACE

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LemonAide On the Cover

FROM HELL TO PEACE

by Ivy Jelden

The world said Bob Williamson could never change. Labels such as sociopath, sadist, rebel, and potential serial killer, according to one psychologist, were flung at him. High on intravenous drugs, and booze, his destiny was sealed. Or perhaps not?

Bob was a man who stole, cheated and didn't care for himself, let alone others. His cycle of life vacillated between jail time and an ugly abusive lifestyle. From New Orleans, at 24 years old, he traveled to Atlanta penniless and strung-out on meth and heroine. He ended up on Luckie Street, an actual street, and an ironic name for a man like him. But, God had other plans, ones that ordinary men cannot fathom.

On one fateful day, Bob borrowed a car and was involved in a head-on collision. Landing up in the charity section of a local hospital, his body was badly battered, and in this state, he had a vision that he died and went to hell. When he woke up and during the long period of recuperation, a Christian nurse befriended Bob and became the catalyst for change.

Bob had always been an avid reader and asked his new friend to bring a list of "best sellers" from the library. He discovered that the Bible was on the top of the list. Bob devoured the New Testament where he learned about the compassion of Jesus, very unlike his own cruel dad, or any unkind teacher, bad cop, or brutal military leader, and certainly not anyone in his circle of friends. The scripture that reached his heart was "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" Philippians 4:13 KJV (2003).

The odds were stacked against the possibility of getting off hard drugs, only two percent are successful. One day, Bob expressed great doubt at the prospect for deliverance, the kind and bold nurse said, "Jesus is God and He can do anything He wants and if He can do that, He can change your 'sorry' tale."

That spurred Bob forward and faith took seed in his heart. He was sincere when he asked Christ to forgive him and reign in his life. After he left the hospital, he miraculously stayed off drugs—clean with no rehab or meetings to attend. Bob said, "I adopted the Bible



PHOTO: BOB WILLIAMSON

as my personal success manual. The scripture about ... doing all things through Jesus Christ ... became the motivating factor in my life. Soon after my conversion, I married my best friend and soul mate, Teresa. I, then, got a job."

When God transforms a person, it's sensational. Bob, who had never really held down a job, or completed his military stint, or finished school, was now a model employee with a paint plant and was promoted eight times.

Eventually, Bob decided to start his own business and borrowed \$1,000. In six months after inventing a unique paint for an artist's airbrush with a pigment that transmits light comparable to a stained-glass window, Bob became a multi-millionaire. Since that time, he has established 11 companies and sold one of them for \$75,000,000.

Bob is quick to interject about how God has blessed him with a wonderful wife of 41 years, three sons, seven grandchildren, and most of all, the peace of God. He has reconciled with his dad and loves him dearly. As Bob aptly says, "Success is having pure love and joy in your heart. You should have hope because God has given us everything to succeed."

For the last eleven years Bob has written a blog, www.words-fortheday.org and is active in prison ministry. In recent years he's written a book called *Miracle on Luckie Street*. Bob says, "The book is about God's power to transform someone's life." My purpose is to show hope." To learn more about Bob Williamson, I would recommend reading his book. Go to www.miracleonluckiestreet.com

Bob and Teresa reside at Honey Lake Plantation Resort and Spa in Greenville Florida. This gorgeous property boasts of gracious hospitality, a gamut of activities and amenities. This is worth exploring at www.honeylakeplantation.com

Bob's experience shows that despite how far, how impossible, and dark a man's life becomes, God can pick him up and set him on the path of abundant blessings and restoration. The best part is that Bob acknowledges God and gives Him the glory. Now, he desires to express his gratitude and knowledge with others.

Thank you, Bob for a life that teaches us how one man mattered to God and thanks to God, for what He's done in your life!