

Dear Pastor Roger,

I mentioned before that I wanted to give more regular updates as the launch of the church approaches. In this update, I'd like to introduce you to a new member of our core group.

Jason and Jennifer Janz

Recently, Providence hosted a banquet at the Colorado Convention Center. One of our core members shared her testimony and I thought you would receive a blessing from it.

The Story of Krystol Housego

Good evening, my name is Krystol. I was asked to talk about how I came to Providence. To explain to you what Providence means to me, I must first fill you in on how I came to know God. For a long time, Christianity seemed like a positive concept that moral, upright people lived by, which helped them see everything as a blessing from their God. I'd been told before that Jesus will forgive you of all your sins if you'd just repent and I thought to myself, only a superior person could have a non dysfunctional life and stop sinning. I admired those who could live this way, noticing that it was simply good, but I could never be one of those people. I did not realize that even Christians sin and not only do they sin, but their God knows it and He still loves them.

As I believed the lies that I was not worthy enough to have God in my life, I began seeking fulfillment and a sense of security and acceptance elsewhere. The pleasant feelings were always momentary and only deepened my void. Each act of sexual promiscuity, drug abuse and basic self-sabotage, just deepened the hole that was in my heart. I started to desensitize more and more as I got older and committed more failed attempts at finding love. Eventually, I got to a point where I wasn't going to look for love anymore, instead I devised a plan to just extinguish my feelings all together. It seemed easier to be completely hollow.

When I found out I was pregnant at 18 by a man on a road to slow-paced suicide through drug abuse, I decided I would live a healthy life for my soon to be new son. I had true intentions of being a great mother and getting away from the darkness that I indulged in, but I was unaware of two things: first, I was missing something vital for fullness. Second, I was unaware of what I was up against. The relationship with my son's father didn't last. I stayed sober and focused on being healthy during my pregnancy and the first several months of Kaden's life.

About six months after his birth, I let an evil force get a hold of me and before I knew it, I was six-feet-under, spiritually, emotionally, mentally, psychologically, and almost physically. Within a year, I was so engulfed in my addiction to meth, that I had also acquired an eating disorder, average weight being 98lbs. I had accomplished my goal of becoming hollow.

Then, as my mother began to see that her daughter was wasting away into thin air, she told me to change my life, or stay out of hers. Within a week I was back at her door ready to find a place for help. I found a family shelter, which brought me to God's light.

The first time I went to Church was in September 2007, while staying at the shelter. I truly believe God spoke to me that day, as a particular Bible verse jumped out at me, making me feel like I had known God for my entire life. I'd like to share that verse with you now. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." This verse has been brought back to my attention time and time again to remind me to let my light shine. From this point, God led me to Champa House.

Champa House is a Christian based transitional home for single mothers with dependent children. I finally found what I was missing. After a month of thriving in the program, I officially accepted Jesus as my Lord and savior. I am a new believer and follower of Christ. I am excited, filled with the spirit of God and although I have a lot of work to do within myself to prepare for the gates of heaven, God has given me Jesus, the only resource I need to be fruitful. About 4 months into the Champa House program, I was baptized by Pastor Dennis from Church of the Risen Lord. I was church searching at this time also. I had been to a couple churches I enjoyed but they were all the way out in the suburbs and it would be hard for me to get involved.

I would get restless in other churches and although I was able to pay attention most times and find something relatable in most sermons, I never felt that rush of inner wealth as I do

when I get into hefty conversations or bible studies. I thought I was being too picky.

I attended random churches without satisfying my hunger and then found Providence Bible Church. An intern at Champa House named Amy, whom I have become close friends with, brought me to Providence. Within the first 5 minutes, I knew I loved it. I tried to calm my heart while I sat quietly listening to everyone around me sing wonderful songs. Wanting to avoid a shallow decision on determining my home church, I was officially sold to Providence Bible Church at about twenty minutes and my heart still beats that same way every time I go, even when the services run two to three hours long.

The first person who really reached out to me at Providence was Sarah McCall. She came to Champa House to be approved as a visitor and we hit it off right away. She is a blessing from God. Every time I visit with her, we praise Jesus for bringing us together. I've never had friends who cared for me enough to ask, "What's God teaching you today?" or to open up their Bible to scripture that will help me with my daily drama. With Sarah and Amy, I know I have made true friends who love me as a sister in Christ. I have a whole new family in Christ now, and it just keeps growing. I am also getting to know Joy Wagner and I know she is another awesome blessing from God. I met with her for the first time two weeks ago and told her all about myself. Joy exudes peace of God and I am greatly impacted by her commitment to the Lord. I am thrilled to connect with more of the saints of God who gather at Providence.

My first time at Providence, the guitar guy, now known as David Cedarquist, handed out index cards for song requests. He reminded us to make sure the songs we chose were theologically aligned with what we believed. I still admire the fact that these people are so committed to sending and receiving truth in the name of Jesus Christ. I love to hear Pastor Jay boldly proclaim the core values of this Church. I greatly appreciate Jason and Jennifer Janz for moving into the city. Jesus is our only savior and he is needed in this city. Don't get me wrong, everyone needs God; I truly believe that, but like Jesus says in Matthew 9:12, "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick."

God has truly blessed me in providing Providence Bible Church just two blocks away from my home. I know that God loves me and values my existence. As I reflect on the days when I was hollow and depressed, I see now that it was all part of God's plan. It is my weaknesses that make me strong in Christ. Today I look deep into myself and examine the lies that have become strongholds and I call on Jesus to remove them. I know myself more today than ever before, because I know God and He is my ultimate role model. I love having God in my life and have come to realize that when something ugly creeps into my mind, I can praise Almighty God because He is allowing me the gift of knowing I can depend on Him to cleanse my spirit. Because I have the Holy Spirit within me, I do not have to let the fallen world affect my heart. I can go to the Word and understand what God wants me to understand. I used to live in the darkness and I thought there was no other way. This brings me to Phillipians 3:12, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."

I am now working the 12 steps for Christians to manage my drug addiction, as well as learning how to let go of my strongholds and give them to God. I am going to college to be a legal secretary and I plan to continue giving back by getting involved with Providence and eventually would love to minister to others. I am excelling in my program at Champa House and God's blessings are constant in my life. My son, Kaden is doing great! He is now two years old. He is smart and I plan to bring him up in the Lord's Word. Every night before bed, he closes his little eyes and prays to Jesus for the ones he loves. It's the sweetest thing to teach a small child that he does have a father and that He lives in Heaven. My life is full and my void is no longer my best friend because Jesus Christ is the one I serve. Thank you, Providence Bible Church, for being my ministers and seeking to become my friends, but most of all thank you Lord Jesus for calling on me to let my light shine.

Prayer Requests

We have our Building Dedication on Sunday, September 21st. We need \$5000 to finish the project.

We have our Grand Opening on Sunday, September 28th. Pray for souls to receive Christ. Pray as we make over 100,000 contacts in the city over the next two weeks.

We have 70% of our support. Pray for monthly supporters to sign on before Grand Opening.

We want to continue to be strengthened with His might in our inner man.