

My Testimony

God's Abounding Love

God Has been with us even before we were conceived in our mother's womb. He has long before ordained our steps that we will follow for his Glory.

Not long ago before my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, My mother and I, had a conversation about how I was named David R Turner. See mom had told me that my father had named my three sisters and my brother. However she named me, and she insisted that my name be David R. Turner because God gave her my name in a dream. And this is my story of how God's abounding love is with us from the moment he breathed us into existence.

When I was just a little boy, about 4 or 5 years of age, I was being abused. I remember the first time this happened like it was yesterday, Of how I was taken into a dark storage shed of the house we lived in on Fort Hood Texas. It's hard for your parents to always keep an eye on you, to protect you from the evil of this world. However your father in heaven is always there.

Because this continued to happen for a very long time, i had become an unruly child. I started skipping school in the first grade. I was causing all kinds of problems for my family. It had gotten so bad mom had me going to see a psychologist or counselor. No one could ever figure out what was wrong with me because I was not talking to anyone about all the hurt and pain that i was feeling inside of me.

At the age of ten I started smoking cigarettes and marijuana, most of my friends thought i was doing it just to be cool. Deep down inside it was helping me to put a mask on the dark room from my earlier childhood. It was away for me to escape the reality of the hurting little boy That I was. As I got a little older the drugs became harder, At the age of 13 I was smoking about half ounce of marijuana every couple days, tripping on acid, was snorting any kind of powder I could get. I would steal money from my mom or whatever i could get my hands on to take to one of my older friends to take to the pawn shop. I was very distant from everyone. When I wasn't out getting high I always stayed in my bedroom for the most part. I had gotten kicked out of school in the 7th and, 8th grades. I even had to repeat a couple grade by this time, I was the only kid in the 8th grade with a driver license mom let me get this because she thought it would calm me down. I just did not care what was happening to me. I literally put my mother and family through a living hell. About around this time my parents were getting a divorce. Since there was two of kids

living at home still, two boys my parents decided to split us up. My brother naturally because my brother has my dad's name, Mom insisted that I live with her.

I do not know what I did to my father, but after my parents' divorce dad hardly ever talked to me. Shortly after their divorce mom and I moved to Pennsylvania so she could get some help with me from our relatives that lived there. All of our relatives are from there.

In the 9th grade I quit school, I was just so far behind I would of never graduated. The good thing is though by this time I was clean, I was not doing anything, no drinking no drugs also at this time I was trying to figure out what was I going to do with my life?

Well I had met this man I believe his name was Mr. Shumacher. He was a counselor in a nearby town who helped kids, young adults like me plan for the futures and get some type of education.

He got me to enroll in a job corp. Red Rock Job Corp Lopez Pa. high above in the Pocono Mountains in Pa. There I met Mr. Incelli and Old Italian fellow; he was one of the inspirations in my life. Mr. Incelli taught me the plastering and stucco trades. And he also help get in me into the plasterers union in Cleveland, Ohio. The best gift Mr. Incelli gave any of his kids, as he called us, Was he always told us he believed in us.

The union thing did not last for more than a year, come to find out the only reason why we got into the union was because the companies that hired us would get huge tax breaks for hiring kids from government funded programs. By this time I had started drinking and partying again like crazy, I had money I could buy whatever I wanted. I even had a friend who was getting me into the local bars. Back then showing and id was not a big thing like it is now. And I had finally figured about females. This was a bad thing.

I had moved back to Pa My sister in law Gretchen had invited me out to stay with her and my brother. Shortly after I had gotten there my brothers National Guard unit was [activated.jobs](#) were kinds of slow because of the winter months. Gretchen and I had gotten into a huge fight about money, So she had kicked me out. Nobody in my family would help me, I did not understand why, so I decided I would show them. I was living in the mission at the time when a shrine circus came to town. Garden Brothers circus. A man named Frank Daily came down to the mission asking if I could help him set it up. He paid me 160 dollars for 16 hours of work he asked me if I could help him run his props that weekend to. On top of that he paid me another 350 dollars. In 3 Days I made 510 dollars. 25 years that was a lot of money. Frank had asked me to go onto the next town with him. He paid me another 350 dollars bought all my food and paid for my hotel room. That is where I meet Larry Records the man I would spend the next 3 to 5 years working for. Larry was an animal trainer he had two baby African elephants angel and Zoë. We discussed between two and half days and nine shows that I would ride to Massachusetts and become his assistant. Larry Records taught me everything I know about animals today. Except horses! I had spent the next 6 months working with all kinds of exotic animals, ranging from little bitty capuchin monkeys to great big ole elephants. We live on a zoo in New England and no from in my family new where I was. Finally I wrote my mom a letter letting her know I was still living and where I was, what I was doing. She said she was so proud of me that I found something I truly doing. But for them three to five years it was like one big party night after night after night.

Drugs alcohol women. I thought I had it all???? Boy was I wrong.

Honestly and truthfully I did not have what I truly wanted, I was 19 when I joined the circus the animal business and about 24 or 25 when I quit. In that time I was out there working for Larry Records I helped him build the largest mobile petting zoo and show in the New England Area.

Records and Burpee mobile zoo.recordsandburpeezoo.com All that money and the little bit of fame that I had, would never have come close to what I wanted in my heart. I wanted to fill this

void I was missing for such a long time that i would spend the next four or five years of my life trying to find what i was missing so much of. Just as a reminder I never had a relationship or even spoke to my father since i was about 16 years of age. However my dad would call my brother all the time and my oldest sister sometimes. As for me in my eyes he did not care at all he never once told me he loved me.

The next four or five years I spent looking to fill the void I had in my heart, I was traveling from one place to another looking for love, most of the time when I would leave home it was usually because of a woman who i thought i would end up spending the rest of my life with. Well of course this has never happened yet. I did not care who i would hurt along the way. The last animal i worked with was an elephant named Jenny at the San Antonio Zoo in San Antonio Texas, Who previously the year before killed one of her handlers. The only reason i took this job was to be closer to my dad. I wanted to try and have that relationship with him; you know that father son relationship that i desired so much. Of course dad let me come and stay with him in the house I spent my teenage years in, however he never had any time for me, he even told me this. So i just blew off this incredible opportunity i had at the zoo, I called mom asking her if i could come home. Right away mom asked what my father did to me. And of course two weeks later i was at home in mom's house. No matter how much hurt and pain I cause that woman she always had open loving arms for all her children especially me. I guess I can honestly say "I am the only hell my momma ever raised".

I didn't stay there long I actually went back to Texas, not be with my dad, but just to go, I had gotten into some trouble at mom's house. I had ran mom's phone bill up a few thousand dollars calling them talk lines, I had met an interesting young lady Tina Hayes. She invited me out to stay with her and her family, I just blew it off because back where i used to come from you just don't invite a total stranger into your house. So I still went onto to Texas to go stay with my friend Jackie and her husband Gene. I stayed with them for a few months Tina and I had still been talking to each other we had been talking on the phone and writing letters to each for almost a year now. January 2nd either 1996 or 1997 i do not remember, I talked with Tina asking her if she was serious about me coming out to stay with her and her Family. She said of course, Well I explained to her that i did not have a vehicle she told me if i could make it to the Cleveland, TN bus station there would someone there in her family to pick me up. Well January 4that about 8 pm I walked off the bus in Cleveland, TN and Tina's older brother Michael and her older sister Cindy was waiting on me there.

I spent three months with them in the Smokey Mountains. I will honestly say I learn more from that Family then what i ever learned in my life about life and love. They were a poor family but very rich in love. If wanted to take a bath, you either to the creek or up to Michael's house, And the bathroom was either an outhouse or a tree. The way they had electricity was extension cords ran to a temporary pole on the outside of the house. From there i moved to Cleveland TN to be closer to my job. Stayed there for about a year before i headed back home to Ohio. By this time my brother had gotten hooked with a new woman, since Gretchen had passed away a few years before. Shelly my niece was about 8 yrs old I had been talking with this woman Nicole Patterson who i was very interested in knowing. Yes i met her on one of them chat lines. Anyway i went home to mom's house in Ohio Nicole and I stayed in touched via the computer and telephone. One afternoon Nicole and I had been talking on the computer, the turn of events that happened that day change my life forever. Not only my dad turned his back on me now my brother did also. His new wife Diana somehow had gotten a hold of My friend Nicole on the telephone and computer starting telling her all kinds of lie's about me. She was telling Nicole that i never

worked with exotic animals, that i never paid any of my bills mom always had to bail me out, you could only imagine what she had said to this woman. Nicole was in disbelief about everything really overwhelmed. Diana told me if i did not leave the state of Ohio she would destroy my life, She went as far as to write my entire family an email telling all of them that i was the scum of the earth, that I did not amount to anything, that i never would. That I was not to be trusted because i was an addict. She did all this because my niece shelly and i were talking with my friend Nicole together about Barbie dolls. Diana just hated me for some reason. I was so furious with this woman and my brother that when my mom pulled in the driveway when i went out the front door i to meet her i took the screen door with me. I broke right off the hinges, and of course this scared my mother. I told her she needed to get a hold of her son before i did. Well of course mom came and called my brother asking him what was going on. She was crying because i scared her i was so pissed off. My brother came over right away of course we had gotten into it in front of my mother. The only thing that stopped me from beating the hell out of him after he slammed me into the wall was looking down and seeing mom crying really hard because we were fighting. Of course Diana had called the cops on me so i had to leave for a few hours till i got calmed down. When i returned I told mom it was time for me to go back to Tennessee. I asked her if she could help me get there.

Well mom had given me 500 dollars I was bound for Knoxville TN. I lived in the southern part of the Tennessee valley so i wanted to try the northern part. I actually love it here, Mom had gotten sick a short time later So i went back home to Ohio to help mom out. Mom had bought a new house for her and sister her husband and her two daughters. I wasn't allowed to stay there because of all the stuff Diana had started for me with my family. I kept telling them that this woman is not to be trusted no one would believe me. Diana did it to me again. I was buying a computer from rac you know rent a center, I had gotten approved because my sisters talked to them for me. Somehow Diana got them to believe her lies once again. So I left. I had mom drive me to the bus station i went to Oklahoma to be next to my best friend Randa Mizer. Randa and I had started talking on AOL. We had become the best of friends we could talk for hours and hours on the phone or computer about anything and everything. She knew everything that was going on in my life.

I had gotten to Tulsa Oklahoma in the middle of January about the year 2002, I had stayed there in Tulsa for a year. Randa and I had never met in person like we wanted to, This was because i had started partying really hard again. Smoking crack, doing acid, powder, I was going through about a ounce of pot every other day. I was drinking like a fish. I had gotten hooked up with one of the biggest dealers in town. So anything that I wanted was at the tips of my fingers. And of course when you have drugs and money you also have a wide array of females that come along with all that. Also at this time God was talking to me a whole bunch. One night he came to me in a dream telling of a blonde woman who would give me a child but I would never marry. Or was this Satan doing this. I believe it was God. While i was in Tulsa i had called home to mom's house she had told me in a conversation that my dad was visiting my brother. I told mom i wanted to get off the phone so i could call my brother's house and talked to my dad. Dad got on the phone I told him where I was living now, his words to me cut me deep like a knife. He told me that's good stay there I don't want to see you.. I never knew what was so bad that i did to my father for him not to love me like he did my brother. My Father never accepted my son as his own grandchild, for years and years all I ever wanted was my father to love me like dad should. I tried so hard to have that relationship with [him.it](#) never was to be. When my father died July 5th 2007 I never did go to funeral, today i want to go to the cemetery he is buried in just to pay my

last respect to him because he is my dad and I love him very much even if he didn't love me. I will never know this??

I had gotten followed around all over Tulsa by these people (DEA), Every place I went they went, they pretty much controlled my actions. Just by following me around. I had gotten down on my knee's one night and prayed to God if he would get me out of here i would do my very best to stay clean off of drugs and alcohol. The next night God came to me in a dream again and told me it was time for me to go back to Knoxville. I knew this was God because the next day there was snow on the ground and the roads. And I did not have any money for gas or food. I had a full size dodge truck. Well I took my tools that I owned to a pawn shop i got 60 dollars for them. It is 870 miles from Tulsa to Knoxville. I should of never made it as far as I did. I was only about an hour outside of Knoxville before i had stop to try and find some gas to make it all the back to Knoxville. I ended up selling a Marlboro cigarette duffle bag for ten dollars witch gave me enough money to get to the Salvation Army on Broadway in downtown Knoxville. I started attending Gayland heights Baptist church over in Vestal. Where I had met the beautiful blonde woman who gave me my son, Karen Lampkin.

We started dating at first it was rough going for us because Karen is ten years older than me.

Whenever she would look at me when she was having seconds thoughts about us, I had just happened to be reading my bible. She always said it was a sign from God. Shortly after we started dating Karen asked me to move in with her since I was spending all my free time with her and her two kids Travis and Kara. When I wasn't working I was with them, my family. I had found what I was looking for, a beautiful woman to love and some loving children. Karen would always look at me weird when i would always point out the little toddles walking with theirs daddy's. Before we knew she was pregnant with my son. The doctors swore up and down that my beautiful baby would never make it into the world because he had extra chromosomes.

Austin Raine Turner is now a healthy ten year old little boy. Remember The vision i saw of a little blonde whom would give me a child but i would never marry. Karen was about 6 months along in her pregnancy. When i had woken up early one Sunday morning. I knew what was going to happened, because God had prepared for this. I knew this because when papa talks to me i get excited and i have to go for a walk. Well that Sunday morning i was up outside pacing back and forth. We had finally made it to church. I was asked if i could teach the men's Sunday morning bible school. I was thrilled to death to have such an honor appointed to me by God then by the men of Gayland Heights Baptist church. Of course everyone was not happy at all, well one person in particular. This elderly woman name Mozale wanted her friend to teach the men's bible school that morning. When she found out that i was teaching it she starting causing Karen and I a lot of problems. Karen led the singing in the church; she truly loved doing this, serving God this. Well needless to say that next Wednesday i did not make it to church because i had to work late that night. I had made it home before Karen did. When she walked in i knew right away something was wrong.

I asked the beautiful woman i was in love with what was up, she told me because we were living in sin the church asked her to step down from leading the singing. However the church never asked us once how they could help us, Karen and I were talking about getting married, but they were really quick to scorn us. Needless to say Karen vowed never to step foot in a church again.

Till this day she still helps me teach our son Austin Raine about God and church life.

Ten months from the day that's all it took for me to lose my house family jobs cars and trucks, i love it all. Karen disappeared with my son for a very long time. And again i was looking for something that i would never find????? I had moved us into a hotel off of Clinton hwy. Karen

and I had started partying there, me more than her. There i started smoking crack, it seemed like everything i do i always fail at so why not fail at love too. That's what I thought. The only Job i could find was working at McDonalds. This was not good enough for Karen. The love there was lost and gone forever.

Karen and i split and i spent the last 10 years in and out of jail, looking for my son, making one bad decision after another, doing drugs and drinking a lot. I had gotten hooked with a woman who i thought was my friend, she had ulterior motives. Her name was Tammy she was a good woman, since i was the only man that paid attention to her and her kids she had become obsessed with me. I had shown this family what it was like to have someone love them like a man should.

Of course i made a lot of mistakes with these people for the most part i did my best. I was cleaned for about a year or two then i started partying again. Drugs and alcohol etc. Tammy had a bad heart condition so she use that against me all the time, just to get me to take care of her. When I did not do what she wanted she would get jealous start yelling cursing me telling me she would tell Karen and my family all kinds of lie's about me. She even got jealous when i spent every minute i could with my son. Like I said i made a lot of bad decisions. In the year 2010 i almost lost my son to the bad decision that I was making that involved drugs and alcohol. I had always told myself i would never be a dad to my child like my dad was to me. And look i almost turned out just like my dad. For the most part though tammy and I did our very best to help each other out, she just took things way too far. Tammy had a stroke in 2012.I moved us out to Crossville to her brother's house thinking hoping i would get help taking care of her. Well I was wrong about so I started drinking and doing drugs really heavy again. Tammy's brother was worse off the me, one night he came over to the trailer we were living. He started yelling and cursing her because she wouldn't give him any money or pills pain pills because he was already really messed up. Well I got up into his face Roger pulled a gun on. I told him he better kill me and if he didn't I was going to pistol whip him with his gun. Needless to say the situation got diffused really quickly and he left. I look at Tammy and said that was it, I am done i am going back to Knoxville to get my life back, the life that God wants me to have. That Abounding love that i always heard about as a child, and when I found as a young adult in a mission in Allentown pa .Tammy said you are going to be homeless but I didn't care I made up my mind and that was it. I prayed that night asking God to forgive me and to lead me back to where he wants me to be.

January 7th 2013 I was back in Knoxville. I didn't know how I would feed myself, where i would sleep, what i would do for work, how i would clothe myself I didn't know nothing at all, except i knew God would provide and take care of me.Why because the bible told me so.You just got to be willing to step out of the boat like peter did in Mathew 14:29-30 you can't lose sight of him. God says he will provide everything in Mathew 6:33.

And that is what God did i never looked back i depended on God every day and he provided for me every day. Food clothing and shelter and even enough work to help me survive while he taught me while i lived under my pine tree. January 4th 2013 I gave me life back to God and today because of this I share a house with three other wonderful men, I have a very beautiful woman whom I am in love with I am drug and alcohol free.. I am 45 years old For the first time in my life I am going to College a bible college to get my Bachelors of Science degree in Pastoral Counseling, So that I may better serve my Father in heaven how he wants to serve him.

In my life I give good all the glory because I cannot make it on my own..

Godbless
Love Ya'll
David Turner

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