

WEEK 14 • APRIL 8, 2023

## Hope Channel: Cipriano's Second Chance

Jeremiah 17:14—“Heal me, LORD, and I shall be healed; Save me and I shall be saved, for You are my praise.”

I was 25 years old and lay dying from alcohol addiction. I thought my life was over.

As a child I was bullied by older boys. As I grew up, I learned how to stand up for myself. In time the bullies stopped picking on me and accepted me. They introduced me to their dark music and alcohol. Before long I was addicted to alcohol; and when I couldn't get it from friends, I'd steal it.

I quit school when I was 15 and went to work. But everything I earned went to buy alcohol. The next five years were the darkest years of my life. I became everything I hated. I bullied others and became abusive when I drank. I was depressed and suicidal. The only thing I hated more than myself was my addiction. I lost friends and family members to death by alcohol.

I realized I was killing myself. I stopped drinking and went home to my grandparents. They welcomed me. My grandmother was a Christian and had helped several people overcome alcohol addiction. But even she was not prepared for the life-threatening effects that my withdrawal presented. I couldn't eat; my heart pounded constantly, and I shook uncontrollably. She knew that my life was hanging by a thread.

Fearing I would die, my grandmother talked to me about Jesus. She prayed and reminded me that Jesus loves me. Her words gave me courage. Day after day my life hung in the balance.

My grandfather set a television by my bed. He thought it might distract me from my symptoms. When I turned the TV on that day, a program called Hope Sabbath School came on. I had never heard of it before, but it caught my attention. As I listened to the program, it helped me focus on God's Word rather than on my agony. I felt the Holy Spirit working in my heart. Hope Sabbath School became my church and a part of my healing process. Hope Sabbath School and my grandparents guided me along the path to Christ.

**God healed me and gave me a second chance at life. My heart is now filled with God's grace and love. God answered my grandparents' prayers. They and Hope TV opened my heart to God's love and brought me new life in Christ.**

---

Fearing I would die, my grandmother talked to me about Jesus. She prayed and reminded me that Jesus loves me. Her words gave me courage. Day after day my life hung in the balance.

---