

My Drug Dealer Brought Me to God

How a self-hating LGBTQ+ addict found God

THE NEED

Storytelling has been known to have significant impacts on not only the one sharing their story, but it also breaks down barriers and creates a vast amount of connection. *Through my story others are able to find connections within the recovery, spirituality, and LGBTQ+ communities.*

Ultimately, leading to them sharing their stories. As my drug dealer shared her story with me, she had no idea the impact she would make within my life in that moment. We all have a story and that story has the potential to ripple out and help other people. These ripples make this world so much more connected and a much smaller (and more beautiful) place. The LGBTQ+ community experiences significantly higher rates within drug/alcohol addiction, homelessness, sexual abuse, domestic abuse, mental health concerns, and suicide. Often through spiritual connection these rates decrease and create an overall healthier life.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Initial recordings were created with roughly 45 chapters that span and length of 15 hours of unedited and hyper-raw material. This material is meant to be listened to in its raw and authentic form, similar to a podcast. You hear me laugh, cry, and can almost hear me smile. I've been working with a world renowned ghostwriter/editor (Fern Pessin) the past few months. Once these audio clips are transformed into a written memoir they have the ability to touch even more people's hearts and lives. The memoir will then be published via traditional book, e-book, audiobook, and raw podcast. A workbook will accompany the book/e-book/audiobook to encourage journaling of new ideas and ah-ha moments while outlining key concepts. The workbook will be structured for individual reflection, one-on-one, or group work.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

How did my drug dealer bring me to God? By the time I was four years old I knew I was different. I was different than my brother and my male friends. I tend to feel things so deeply. By the time I was six I had my first thoughts about ending my life. At eight I realized that I fell on the LGBTQ+ spectrum. This led to self-destruction in my teenage year that fed my ever growing sense of self-loathing. This intense self-loathing led to multiple suicide attempts. As I entered college my addictions to drugs and alcohol spiraled out of control. Until one night my drug dealer talked about God. She simply shared her story with me about her connection with God. After our conversation I went to the bathroom and fell to my knees asking God to save my life. I knew if I continued on this

path I'd surely end up dead. From that moment I was reunited with God and as a result everything changed. By the age of 23 I was able to get clean and sober. As a result I became the father to my daughter that my father never was to me. I finished my undergraduate degrees and masters degree. Now, at the age of 31 I'm almost complete with my doctorate bridging leadership and spirituality. I helped cofound a nonprofit organization assisting those kids, teens, and adults like me to experience love and acceptance. Through this work countless souls touched my heart and impacted my story.

Within each story we share with others we help to break down walls and barriers that so often divide us. Storytelling creates hope! By sharing my story I inspire others to share their story authentically, with passion, and ultimately with love.

COST/TIMELINE

\$20,000 is requested to share the story and build the tools and is projected to be completed by the end of February 2021.

Breakdown of costs

\$10,000 for the ghostwriting/editing the **60,000-75,000 word memoir** and tool creator/workbook (Fern Pessin Services- 222 Yamato Rd. Boca Raton, FL 33431 (561.757.8237)) [Completed by 12/2020]

\$7,000 for the book/memoir/workbook/e-book publishing process (Publish Your Purpose Press- publishyourpurposepress.com (CEO- Jenn T. Grace 860.281.1583)) [Completed by 01/2021]

\$3,000 for audio clips/podcasts to be published by a professional studio (Publish Your Purpose Press- publishyourpurposepress.com (CEO- Jenn T. Grace 860.281.1583)) [Completed by 02/2021]

\$2,000 for converting the memoir to an audiobook in a professional studio (Elaine Weatherby- ewvoices.com (859.916.0673)) [Completed by 02/2021]

\$22,000

-\$2,000 initial investment/retainer from Ryan Joseph Allen to Fern Pessin Services

Total requested amount of \$20,000