

## Born Into A Mess

**Most people are born into families. Not me. I was born into a mess.** I was unplanned and because I was on the way, my parents were forced into marriage by my father's mom. They married a few months before I was born and separated shortly after my sister's birth 22 months later. I grew up with my mom and had little contact with my biological father. My mom had two boyfriends after my dad and I always felt like a third wheel, trying to figure out where I fit.

When I was old enough I found a boyfriend of my own and I was okay until we broke up. **Searching for fulfilment, I turned to drugs. All my unhappiness disappeared when I was high. Eventually, though, my mom found out about my drug problem and asked me to leave the house.**

That was a kind of wake up call, and after three weeks off drugs, I moved back home and my mom and I went to counseling. My counselor diagnosed me with attention deficit disorder (ADD) and put me on medication. I became addicted to this medication and it took me seven months to get clean.

Off drugs, I was able to start school again, but I still felt empty and unfulfilled, like my soul was thirsty.

At school I met a girl named Krissa. At first I thought she was like me but she had something different. It wasn't long before I got up the courage to ask her why she was so happy. Our discussion led to talking about serious stuff like **God, religion and life's big questions**. She invited me to church that Sunday. I didn't think it would be fun, but it was! I felt a love like none I'd experienced before. It was overwhelming, and I wanted to know more.

I kept going to church, and for a while, I was afraid to commit to God. But as **I came to understand His love for me that He loved me so much He sent His Son to die for me I accepted God's free gift of forgiveness** and asked Him to be the leader of my life. I am so thankful to have God in my life, influencing my decisions with the inspiring words in the Bible. I have experienced a high no chemical or drug could ever produce. My heart is full and the thirst I felt is satisfied.

The Bible, in Isaiah 55:1, says, "Come, all you who are thirsty." And Jesus said, **"Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst again."**(John 4:13).

If you're thirsty, come and get filled with God!