



## Lent Week Two

Barry Steiner Ball interviews Ann Hammond

This week's interview is with a wonderfully strong and honest young woman named Ann Hammond from Clarksburg, WV. Ann is recovering from substance abuse disorder and has an amazing story to tell. She is currently working for HELP 4 WV the 24 hour help line that works to get substance abuse disorder sufferers into rehabilitation. Ann grew up in United Methodist Temple in Clarksburg, and is now back in the church healthy and very active.

As you listen to Ann's story please ask yourself these questions:

1. What is different from you, your children, your grandchildren and Ann?
2. It is easy to judge a person who is suffering from addiction. However, when we hear Ann talk about also judging herself, as she was struggling to gain sobriety, do we realize what a waste of time and energy it is to pass judgement on persons who are already passing judgement on themselves and that judgement is not getting them any closer to sobriety?
3. When we hear Ann's passion to help other persons who are caught in the horrors of addiction and we hear about the vision she has for possible ministries at Temple, take time to think about all of the potential that your community, our state, our country has lost because of overdose deaths and active addiction. When we simply write off people's lives, we are ignoring the potential those persons had, that never had a chance to be recognized. God has created each of us as special, unique and loved, substance abuse disorder is cutting God's creations short.
4. Ann speaks eloquently about the person God created her to be was still alive and in her while she was actively involved with addiction. She states when she reached sobriety "that person" that spark of God was able to come back alive very quickly. What if we could see "that person" that spark of God in each person suffering from addiction? What if we would pray for that spark of God, what if we planned our ministries around that spark of God and worked to bring it out and back into full view with everyone?
5. Listen for Ann speak about how difficult it is to reach sobriety and keep sobriety. Ann tells her own story of relapsing. How can the church help those in recovery stay in sobriety?
6. Listen for ways Ann suggests for churches to respond to those who suffer from substance abuse disorder. Are we willing to respond?

Ann works for HELP 4 WV as a counselor. If you are anyone you know is looking for help with addiction, please have them call 1-844-HELP 4 WV (1-844-435-7498)/