

Recovery & Me

Voices from Soberstock 2009

I crossed the line in 1991. Always able to drink before but my divorce did me in. Unexpected. I'd grown up thinking I'd be married for life. In Tampa, 6-packs three houses up at the 7-11's, etc. Busch and Stoudt brewers were near and Busch Gardens. Drank till I lost the house. Stayed sober for eight months in 1991 until I went to an AA Clubhouse. Smoke-filled and full of beer stories - I went out again. Not back to AA until 2000. Trying it on my own.

Married to the woman God introduced me to in 2001. I relaxed and slipped so badly I wound up losing our "retirement" home of seven years and her, plus being arrested three times for being drunk and nude in public and those were terrorizing. We are nudists, so were used to being so at our home but not at the new place.

"Nuno" (nude/normal vs. textiles), drunk, manic depressant, in a new unwanted home, I was "attacked" by neighbors. (Our old ones knew and knew when they visited if it was warm enough we would be). Anyway, by December 2007 I had enough - of hurt to me, but more to my wife, friends, etc. and thought God and I had agreed to meet. But, though I did die He brought me back after an hour's "conversation."

His plan was to take closer care of my father as his cancer was getting worse. So I did and stayed sober until he died August 13, 2008, when I went out for two months. Dad died one week after my birthday. That and seven years on a death watch for him cost me another eight month stretch.

But I'm back now, in AA, good people, a sponsor, doing the steps, and 10 months plus. I'm broke, staying in my church's basement (homeless) - God laid me flat fully. I've found the peace of mind which surpasses all understanding. I let go, let God. Faith, trust in your creator. Let go, listen, and he will show you the way.

- "Tampa Thomas"