

# Shannon's Interview with Bill Carrie

January 1, 2019

*"God had other plans"*

## **SL: Please describe your childhood?**

BC: I grew up in the south end of Boston, in the Cathedral projects, raised by a single mother. My father was an abusive alcoholic and left when I was only 3 years old. We were poor, lived on welfare, but we managed to still be happy. My uncles and my grandmother lived close by. We ate Sunday dinners together for years. We attended summer overnight camps, played little league baseball and went to hundreds of Red Sox games.

## **SL: How and when did addiction begin manifesting, at what age?**

BC: I guess as early as age 9 addiction began to manifest within me. I would steal money from my mother's pocketbook and steal cigarettes from my uncles. I was an altar boy and would even sneak sips of wine while at church. I was a little sneak as the saying goes. I would also lie a lot.

## **SL: How did your addiction progress from there?**

BC: At the age of 12, I began drinking alcohol. It then progressed into smoking marijuana at the age of 13 and cocaine at the age of 17. I tried just about everything except pills and heroin until years later.

## **SL: Can you describe your path towards recovery?**

BC: After losing a child in 2003, and spending the next 5 years in prison, I would find myself in detox or psych wards. For the next several years I ultimately ended up homeless, depressed, and suicidal time and time again.

On what would have been my daughter's 27<sup>th</sup> birthday, December 11, 2014, I found myself at an absolutely dismal crossroad. Addicted and hopeless, I planned on getting high one more time and then ending my life. However, God had other plans. The very morning of my deceased daughter's birthday, a day I never wanted to remember, my son Mark and his wife Katie had given birth to their first child, Jakob. It turned into a day I'll never forget. I finally surrendered, went to BMC, entered room 5 and sat there until I found a bed somewhere in treatment. I haven't looked back since.

## **SL: What has helped you maintain your sobriety?**

BC: Grace, faith, love and the support of my friends and family have helped me maintain my sobriety. In turn, providing love and support to others in the struggle as well.

## **SL: What advice would you give to someone just beginning their steps towards recovery?**

BC: Don't quit. Be willing to ask for help. Stay connected and build a network...and take your time, this isn't a race.

