



# Corey & Jacinda

*After years of drug addiction and two suicide attempts Corey had had enough. He had a child and a committed partner that needed him.*

Corey's partner Jacinda had given up using drugs when she found out she was pregnant, but Corey continued to use behind Jacinda's back and it was causing a lot of conflict. After the child was born Corey's drug use continued to cause problems for Jacinda that led her to use again. The relationship deteriorated and Jacinda decided she needed to get herself sorted out so stopped her drug use. She told Corey that while he continued to use there was no future for their relationship.

Jacinda was exposed to drugs through her parents' drug use when she was a child; she remembers her mother first offering her drugs when she was eleven years old.

To recover from her recent use Jacinda engaged a counsellor and began to work through the issues that had contributed to her dependence, including an extensive history of child abuse. Teen Challenge staff are very aware that

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when they reach out to support an individual they are actually supporting a family, and in this instance it was about seeing Corey and Jacinda as a couple recovering to offer their new baby a loving home.

Going to the Teen Challenge Rehabilitation Centre was a desperate attempt for Corey to keep his family together. While he was still completing the program, Corey married Jacinda on 28th December 2009. Many of the Teen Challenge staff had become like family to the couple with two of the staff participating in the bridal party and many more attending the wedding. It was a great day.

Corey grew up in a loving family who have supported him throughout his journey and, in particular, his recovery. On reflection Corey recognises that he struggled with issues related to his sense of identity and a susceptibility to peer pressure, and that these things led him to experimenting with drugs.

He commits 100% to everything and drugs were no exception. Drug use very soon became all consuming and he was an addict before he realised the impact his drug use was having on him and his entire family. Corey says that the most important factor in his recovery was developing a relationship with God. His faith is very important to him and he believes it is the holistic approach of Teen Challenge encouraging him to develop his faith that made the difference in his life.

On completion of the Teen Challenge program Corey commenced an internship with Teen Challenge and will complete a Certificate IV in Youth Work and Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drug Work while gaining practical experience working in the New Life Centre supporting other young men recovering from dependency. Corey would like to work in the recovery area sharing his experience with other young people as they come to terms with the impact drug use has had on their lives.

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