



THE TRUTHS LEARNED HAVE BEEN *life-changing*

This is the story of a couple who thought they knew where their lives were going. They had a plan, as we all do. They were successful and comfortable. But they gave it up, without hesitation, when Jesus said, "Follow me."

Glenn and Lara Kees had a heart for people who struggle with addiction. They had their own experience with alcohol abuse, and were open about it with their church community. Glenn shared his testimony at a Men's retreat while Lara stepped in

when her pastor's wife asked her to meet with a young woman who was struggling. They both were changed by the experience and desired more. In 2019, Glenn and Lara attended an Ed Welch conference co-hosted by Hope for Addiction.

Their hearts were stirred and their compassion for the hurting grew. Glenn and Lara made radical decisions, trusting God was directing them. They cleared their schedules. They were willing, available and hungry. They prayed God would thrust them into action. A church friend teased, "Oh boy, you better be prepared to receive what you're asking for!"

God answered Glenn and Lara's prayers in tangible, fruitful ways. He led them to connect with Liz Beck, founder of Hope for Addiction. Liz encouraged them to attend a Recovering Hope meeting. This

INVESTMENTS THAT TRANSFORM *my life and others*

- ⇒ Like, share, comment on social media
- ⇒ Visit a Recovering Hope Meeting
- ⇒ Attend a Training
- ⇒ Monthly giving through Operation: Recovering Hope
- ⇒ Be our guest at a small informational dinner (locations across AZ TBD)
- ⇒ Visit Freedom House
- ⇒ Have coffee with our staff so we can get to know you



is where they saw the "action" for which they were looking. They attended their first meeting in June 2019 at Center Church in Gilbert. They left thinking: "A) We don't know anything, B) We want to learn, C) There is much to do." **The way Hope for Addiction approached addiction, with the gospel on full display, was new for them.** Two months later, Glenn and Lara became financial donors and were wholly committed to serving with Hope for Addiction.

Lara was mentoring young women from the meeting, learning almost as much as she was teaching. During a lunch with Liz, Lara became aware that Hope for Addiction was in need of a bookkeeper and knowing how God orchestrates things, can you guess who had that needed experience? Meanwhile, Lara had just received a 25% raise at her job of 11 years but she "couldn't stop thinking about her conversation with Liz." She spoke with Glenn about this opportunity and prayed over the decision. Once again, she did not hesitate to embrace God's plan and she tendered her resignation to accept the new role at Hope for Addiction.

Three years of growth and following Jesus has produced amazing fruit for the Kees. They have

become integral to the cause of fighting addiction and providing hope. Lara now works at Freedom House doing, "what I love the most and what I know God has led me to do, loving and serving women that are struggling through this broken world." Glenn serves on the Hope for Addiction Board of Directors - supporting the mission. Glenn and Lara lead a *Recovering Hope* group at Christ Church Gilbert and they are working towards biblical counseling certification, giving them even more tools to bring the light of Jesus to struggling addicts.

"In our personal lives, the truths we have learned through the meetings, leader training, and conferences have been completely life-changing. These past couple of years have brought us to our knees many times. God has gently walked us through very hard things in our past, and has led us to the truth of his forgiveness, mercy and grace. He has shown us great compassion and has placed the desire in our hearts to serve and love



Lara meeting with one of the moms at Freedom House

others with the same compassion."

Glenn and Lara followed the promptings of the Lord which led them to invest their whole lives into ministry. Glenn and Lara inspire us. They came to Hope for Addiction wanting to serve. God used this to reveal their own need and dependence on Christ. In giving, they have gotten so much more in return.

Not everyone is called to drop everything, quit a job and start working for a ministry. But **you are a vital part of God's work at Hope for Addiction. You make this work possible. Celebrate with us, the fruits of your faithfulness! God is changing lives.**

Like Glenn and Lara, **we invite you to join us at a Recovering Hope meeting...** you never know what God has in store for you.

Your Money, Your Choice

Your AZ tax credit donation gives a single mom and her kids a safe home and resources for a new life at Freedom House. It's your money, you choose what your AZ taxes fund.

hopeforaddiction.com/you-choose

