

A Surprise Visitor...Jennifer's story (continued from FAM News June, 2016)

On Tuesday, May 31, Jennifer came to Family Advancement Ministries Orange Street site with her family. She explained that she had lived at Nazareth Home when she was pregnant with her oldest daughter...

About twelve years ago, Jennifer was in her early 20's, pregnant, and addicted to drugs. She had been using since she was 12, and her parents were addicts as well. Her grandmother and other family members would not continue to enable her or her destructive behavior.

Jennifer's wake-up call came one day after she had been using cocaine and methamphetamines for about five days straight. She woke up after finally getting to sleep and felt her baby kick inside her for the first time. She felt that in that moment God spoke to her and said, "It's not about YOU anymore, Jennifer." Jennifer called her grandmother and told her that she was ready to get some help. Her grandmother found out about Nazareth Home, but Nazareth Home was a drug-free facility, so Jennifer had to go to the Macon Rescue Mission until she could pass a drug test. Jennifer remembers the great help that Candler Trawick (social worker at Macon Rescue Mission) was during this time.

Jennifer was about almost 6 months along in her pregnancy when she entered Nazareth Home. The staff at Nazareth Home helped Jennifer to prepare herself for a healthy birth, and to be able to provide what her baby would need. They also helped Jennifer plan for her future schooling and career.

Jennifer had a healthy baby girl (whom she named Candler-after the social worker at Macon Rescue Mission), and Nazareth Home staff helped Jennifer get placed in a Mom/Baby program in College Park where she was able to go to school for Medical Assisting.

Jennifer met her husband when Candler was 10 months old. They lived an hour apart, but his family took her in when she moved out of the Mom/Baby Program.

About 7 years ago, Jennifer completed her LPN and has been working at Pulaski State Prison for a little over 5 years now. She said that she very well could have ended up IN prison if God hadn't put certain people in her life. Now she works there, helping women who have gone through similar challenges in life.

Jennifer continues to help people with addictions. She had been a leader in the Refuge Church Recovery Ministries in Eastman, and continues to minister as her schedule allows.

Jennifer's daughter was born healthy-no effects of the drugs, and is now a 12 year old straight-A honor student.

When I asked Jennifer what words of wisdom she might share with a woman coming to FAM today, she responded, "Sometimes growth hurts; both physical and spiritual!!"

I asked if she had kept in touch with any of the other Nazareth Home residents or staff, and she said no...but would like to know where they are now. So would we at FAM. If you or someone you know has been helped by Nazareth Home, Mother & Child, or Family Advancement Ministries, e-mail us at FAM@FamilyAdvancementMinistries.org or send a note to

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