



Hewitt Harris

Anger and bitterness in a young man can cause him to make devastating life choices. Just ask Hewitt Harris. His anger and bitterness consumed him, leading him to prison at the young age of 17 – for involuntary manslaughter.

Hewitt Harris was raised by a single mom who struggled with mental illness issues - his mother's issues often caused her to miss work, leaving them with little to no money. The welfare system was their only saving grace. Eventually, they would move across the country from Ohio to California, forced to live in gang-ridden neighborhoods. Angry, bitter, and having no father-figure in his life, Hewitt struggled to avoid the gang-affiliated peers in his neighborhood. As Hewitt got older, his mother's mental illness often became a source of shame for Hewitt.

After an altercation with two gang members, Hewitt's mother decided it was time to move her son back to Ohio. Her hope was that surrounding her son with family and loved ones might change Hewitt for the better. But the damage had already been done – anger, bitterness and guilt consumed him. He dropped out of high school. He was hanging out with a bad group of friends. Fighting became a way of life for Hewitt (more of an outlet for his anger), and he started carrying a gun for protection wherever he went. And then the inevitable happened – he was involved in a fight with another young boy. During the altercation, Hewitt accidentally shot and killed the boy. At the age of 17, Hewitt was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter and spent 14 years in prison.

Prison provided the structure Hewitt needed to get his life back on track. He was able to get his GED, learn anger management skills, and more importantly, accept Christ as his Lord and Savior. It was the Grace of God's presence in his life that allowed Hewitt to be forgiven for taking another child's life. And it was God's Grace that helped him accept his responsibility for all of the pain and suffering he had caused.

Life after prison, however, proved more challenging. The structure was gone. The support system was gone. Simple daily life skills such as knowing how to write a check, pay bills, or even DRIVE, were unknown to Hewitt. Combined with having the stigma of being a convicted felon, Hewitt struggled to re-enter mainstream society as a productive member. Through his faith in the Lord and his dedicated hours of hard-work, Hewitt was able to successfully get his life back on track.

Passing on pearls of wisdom, Hewitt craft-fully weaves the story of his life for his audience. A childhood of trauma, deep-seated anger and rebellion, and the negative influences of peers led Hewitt down a dangerous road ... ending in prison. He understands the hardships that many of today's at-risk youth face, and the turmoil within themselves. He captivates his audiences with his heart-felt story of wrong choices, survival and salvation. Offering hope to the hopeless, Hewitt is a living example of how God's Grace can help those who deserve a second chance in life.

Let him inspire your audience to search for their **SALVATION ... and their second chance!**