

Addiction FREE

Redemption Stories

Kandi Rose Ministries
Hot Springs, Ar. USA

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KANDI ROSE**

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ISBN: 978-0-9766197-4-1

To purchase additional copies of, “Addiction Free”~Redemption Stories, or to contact the author, Evangelist Kandi Rose, log on:

www.addictionfreetv.com

Kandi is also the author of her autobiography, “Spirits of Seduction/Free at Last.” Also Recovery Today/The Shepherd's Way, Volume 1 & 2 is available for purchase. If you would like a copy of any of these books, log on to her website. God Bless!

Evangelist Kandi Rose hosts her own TV program,
“Addiction Free”
it can be viewed on Youtube under, Kandi Rose
(Many writers in this book can be found on that channel)

Kandi Rose is not only an Author and TV Host but also an Evangelist. To invite her to minister, visit her website.

www.kandiroseministries.com

Edited by: **Peggy Sue York**

Introduction

Psalms 107:2

Let the REDEEMED of the Lord SAY so

I trust these real life stories will encourage you if you are struggling with some addiction. There is hope and his name is Jesus! If you have loved ones in addiction, realize our God is still saving and changing lives. Keep praying and believing!.

All the writers in, "*Addiction Free*", have something in common, they've made a whole heart commitment to Christ, willing to leave their old lifestyle behind. When Jesus died on the cross, shedding his blood, that gave us all the *Power* to say no. The Holy Spirit is given to us when the decision is made to live for him. The Holy Spirit was *Who* we were missing in our lives. Receive Him now and be, "*Addiction Free*" with a Redemption story to tell.

107:2 Let the *redeemed* of the Lord *say so*, whom he hath redeemed from the *hand of the enemy*;

107:3 And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.

107:6 Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he *delivered* them out of their distresses.

107:7 And he led them forth by the *right way*, that they might go to a city of habitation.

107:8 Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

107:9 For he *satisfieth* the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

107:10 Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being *bound in affliction and iron*;

107:11 Because *they rebelled against the words* of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High:

107:12 Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.

107:13 Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and *he saved them out of their distresses.*

107:14 He brought them *out of darkness* and the shadow of death, and *brake their bands* in sunder.

107:17 Fools *because of their transgression*, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted.

107:18 Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death.

107:19 Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses.

107:20 He sent his word, and healed them, and *delivered them from their destructions.*

In this book we are all:

Praising him for his *goodness & wonderful works* to us!

107:21 Oh that men would *praise the LORD* for his *goodness*, and for his *wonderful works* to the children of men!

Due to our rebellion against God, going after sin, we truly were bound in affliction and iron (slaves to addictions). When we cried out to him, He in his mercy, broke our bands (addictions) and delivered us from our destruction. Yes, we are grateful to our Lord. May you too cry out to him and find the freedom, peace, joy and purpose we have found in Christ! Then be one of "The Redeemed who Say so!"

Ps. 107:2 Let the *Redeemed* of the Lord *say so*

Kandi's catch phrase

SAY so & DO so

Walk it~while Talking it

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Spirits of Seduction/Free at Last

Former Stripper and Prostitute
Kandi Rose/Evangelist/Author/TV Host

The title above is the name of my autobiography. Prior to committing my life to Christ, I was a former Stripper & Prostitute who had *Multiple Addictions*, once owning my own Strip-O-Gram business in the Chicago area.

Is Prayer Important? Does God hear and Answer Prayers? Do our Actions & Attitudes affect other lives? Is there a Spiritual battle between Good and Evil that influence Our Choices? Do our Choices have Consequences? Can Our Choices affect Our Destiny?

**I, Kandi Rose, know firsthand the answer
to the above questions.
Yes! Yes! Yes!**

First of all I want to thank My Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for rescuing me. I was lost but now I'm found. Now if you'd ask me years ago if I was lost, I'd said you were crazy. Actually at the time I felt that I was a very successful businesswoman doing what I loved, dancing. You see prior to meeting my Good Shepherd Jesus, I owned my own Strip-O-Gram business called, "Kandi Rose Productions." I had twenty six people working for me. I had not only male and female strippers, including myself but acquired other talented people that I choreographed for

variety shows in nightclubs. I advertised on billboard, commercial on Cable TV, five radio stations, yellow pages, newspapers and made personal appearances at festivals and fairs signing autographs.

**I'd like to take you back to my childhood
and tell you how I ended up in such an
X-Rated lifestyle.**

The first chapter of my autobiography is called, Daddy's Demons. My father appeared to all as such a wonderful husband and father. I was an only child and really loved my daddy until I realized he was perpetrating evil acts on me. My mother had no idea, as he was very cunning and sneaky. After years of this sexual and emotional torment, I couldn't take it anymore and let this dark secret out. My mom was such a kind and loving woman and she and I were very close. I am so grateful she believed me and at that time of my life lying was not part of my character. Soon after that with suitcases in hand, no car, we hopped on the bus and moved to another neighborhood in Chicago, renting a three room apartment. Bitterness and hatred came to reside in our hearts for years as more heartaches and disappointments piled on.

Mom grieved and fell into depression. I started hanging with the street kids in the neighborhood and my innocence soon became a victim of prey for more evil that awaited me. Chapter 2 of my book reveals that our choices do have consequences. Since I began to look for love and acceptance like most young people and adults do, in all the wrong places and faces, I became a victim of date rape, gang rape and was even kidnapped at 5 months pregnant at knife point. At sixteen I acquired a false I.D. and hung out in bars and nightclubs. This started a life of multiple addictions, alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography and many other evils soon evolved in a very X-Rated lifestyle. At eighteen I was introduced to an agent that booked me into thirty

three nightclubs in the Chicago land area and even in Indiana as a go-go dancer. Many of the clubs I worked in were the Rush Street and Old Town areas.

These bad choices led to many heartaches and horrible consequences.

At age eighteen I became pregnant with my oldest daughter. Her father went to jail three days before she was born. A month after she was born I met a drummer and had a boy and girl by him within two and a half years. He was a womanizer; and even cheated with my best friend. Soon after that heartbreaking episode I met a man just home from Viet Nam. I was quite impressed as he had a good job, all the others were dead beats; brand new car and he liked all three of the kids. I was infatuated but not in love. I saw this as security for myself and the kids, a real family situation. After a year living together this would be my first marriage relationship. He adopted all three kids and we even had a daughter together. We bought a brand new house in the suburbs of Chicago. Instead of a happy home, years of addictions and unhealed brokenness from childhood, caused it to be wrecked.

Chapter 6 of my book is titled, Divorced and Desperate.

After 10 years of marriage that ended up with domestic violence, I resorted back to what I knew would give me lots of money, dancing. I answered an ad in the paper for a Strip Club. This would be an even more degrading job. The night would start off dressed in beautiful elaborate costumes and end up fully nude at the end. The worst was hustling the men in a darkened room to spend all their money and max out their charge cards. I stayed high all the time and my heart got so hardened. After a year of that I quit. My boyfriend at that time had a friend who was having a bachelor party. He offered to pay me 150.00 for a half

hour if I would come with my costumes and music and end up doing a full strip for the last few minutes. I thought this was so awesome, as my boyfriend would be my bodyguard and no one would physically touch me. I'd just entertain so to speak. As I mentioned previously I turned this into a full-blown business and with much advertising was well on my way to potential riches.

Praise God, the Lord does answer parent's prayers!

A few years earlier my mom had got born again and married a wonderful man who also became a Christian. They were such an *influence* in my life. They not only *talked the talk* but they *walked the walk*. One night I received a phone call and I thought my children were going to have to go to a foster home. Well this was more than I could bear. I needed peace to deal with this and my mind went to my mom who always had peace and joy no matter what she went through. For years she suffered with such physical torment of osteoporosis, fibromyalgia and rheumatoid arthritis. Her attitude was amazing through it all. My step-dad, who is an awesome dad, is an amazing man of God who always showed acts of kindness even though I had such an evil lifestyle. Unconditional Love was extended to me that ultimately showed me God's love.

Now I realize what had transpired. My precious Savior was wooing me by His Holy Spirit and telling me to reflect on my parent's lives. He showed me that, he made the difference in their lives and he wanted to do the same for me. Wow! What love! I called my mom and she ended up, spiritually birthing me into the kingdom through a prayer of repentance. Chapter 7 of my book is called, "*The Choice that affected my Destiny*".

To order Kandi's autobiography log on to
www.kandiroseministries.com

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Made in His Image

Meth & Lesbianism Free

Cleje Blackwell/Recovery Meeting Leader

My name is Cleje, and I have an amazing testimony. You may be thinking that's bold and arrogant. My testimony doesn't belong to me, it belongs to Jesus Christ. You see before I knew Jesus, my life was h... on earth. I was on my way to death. My childhood was robbed from me. I came out of neglect, rejection, and molestation at the age of 6. I took 56 of my mother's diet pills in the 4th grade.

I felt like a burden to my family and wanted to die. My mom and dad divorced when I was two. I was estranged from my dad after that. I ended up living with an aunt in Oklahoma for seventeen years. The first time I tried drugs, I became hooked. The escape was a relief from past memories, hurts, pains, etc.

I started getting wrong attention from the same sex, and what started out as a thought ended up happening. I became a lesbian as well as a drug addict. I lived that lifestyle for over twenty five years. The first time I went to jail for writing checks to supply my drug habit, didn't stop me. I've overdosed on many different occasions and that never stopped me. The drugs ended up taking all my thoughts. What little dignity I had was gone, so I went full force doing large amounts of cocaine and meth.

I ended up going to prison. During that time, I knew I had to

stop doing drugs. When I got out, I tried putting it behind me, but to no success. I went to rehab, that didn't help me. By that time, I knew how to cook meth. I had a lab in my home. I went to buy some chemicals to cook meth with and ran into a girl I met in jail. She prayed for me and invited me to her church at Cross Life.

I was so messed up and out of it, I felt like I needed to go and end the tormenting voice in me. It kept telling me I had better not go. Well morning came, and I went to Cross Life scared. As I sat down, Dwain Miller started preaching about this cross. I began to cry thinking about all my sins that He went to the cross for, and the Lord told me very clear, that He loved me. I thought, "How could you love me after all the terrible things I've done?" At that moment, I knew nothing would stop Him from loving me.

Meth Lab & Lesbianism gone

I went home immediately. I began throwing the meth and the lab out of my house. The lesbianism had to go that day, too. He has been with me since. I've been clean for five years. I prayed for my dad that I haven't seen for 38 years. He showed up at my house a week later after I had prayed for him.

The Lord has restored my relationship with my family. He has given me life and life more abundantly. He is using me now in His kingdom. He is my deliverer, my savior! My healer, my protector, my provider! I am in love with Him.

The Lord is using me in His Kingdom in many ways. I'm over a ministry called **S.H.I.F.T.** It stands for Seeking Holiness, Intimacy, Freedom, and Transformation. We help people who are struggling with addictions, abuse, grief, and suicide strongholds by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the living Word of God. We have incorporated the curriculum Kandi Rose has written, *Recovery Today~Any Habit*, in our meetings.

Cleje was also a guest on Kandi's TV show, "AddictionFree."

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Like Father-Like Son

Professional Gamblers

Tommy Thomas/Author/Radio Host/Speaker

Titanic Thompson, the legendary gambler, was who my dad was known as. He was born in the Ozarks and resided for a short time in Rogers, Ar. He left as a very young man and quickly learned to hustle unsuspecting people out of their resources. He managed to live an extravagant lifestyle most of his 81 yrs. Millions of dollars sifted through his hands as he won and lost fortunes. Sad to say though, when he died he was penniless and never knew the joy of living a fulfilling life for Christ.

My dad was especially well known back in the 20's to the 40's. His name was associated with these terms: greatest poker player, golf gambler, horseshoe-hustler, skeet shooting con man. During my dad's life he affiliated with men such as: Al Capone, Harry Houdini, Ben Hogan, Minnesota Fats, Sam Snead, Nick "The Greek", Byron Nelson, Mysterious Montague, Lee Elder, and Arnold Rothstein.

In the movie, *Guys and Dolls*, Marlon Brando's character was patterned after my dad who was not only one of the greatest gamblers known but a womanizer as well. I am only telling all of this to give you an idea why *I wanted to be like dad*. It all

seemed so glamorous and I desperately wanted my dad to be proud of me.

Wanting Dad's Approval

My dad had divorced my mother when I was 2 years old. I grew up reading about him in Life magazine, Golf Digest and Sports Illustrated. I wanted him to love me and felt the best way to do that was to become a professional gambler. I started practicing with a deck of cards when I was 13. The best card cheaters in the world would come to see dad, and I would spend hours mastering what they taught me. Dad told me I was the best he had ever seen with a deck of cards, but he never told me he loved me.

The Last Game

I want to take you back to an exceptionally warm spring day in 1974. The sun was bright but you couldn't tell because of the old, stained curtains covering the nursing home windows. I was playing cards with my 82-year-old father.

Before I walked out of the nursing home that spring day, my dad did something he hadn't done before. He put his arms around me and said, *"I love you son."* *I had waited my whole life to hear those words.* Little did I realize as I walked out of his room that day, I would never see my dad again. He died just a few days later.

Didn't like what I saw

In 1997, four weeks before Easter, I took a look at myself in the mirror and didn't like what I saw. I said, "God, I have been taking from people all my life. When I die, I want someone to remember me for giving instead of taking." I fell down on my knees and cried out to Him.

The Devil made a bet

Two weeks later, I was waiting for my turn in a barbershop when I met a Christian lady named Margaret Moberly. Even though we had never met before, she knew everything about me. She said that God had told her, "that man is a professional gambler. He has a lot of nice things, but he isn't happy. He has a big heart, and God has him on a long leash." I was blown away. I responded, "Lady, it doesn't get any better than being on a long leash with God, does it?" She didn't laugh. The night before Easter she sent me another message through a friend, "tell him that God now has him on a short leash, *the devil has made a bet on his soul, and God has covered the bet.*" God had really gotten my attention now.

That Easter I went to church with Margaret. Again, prompted by the Lord, she said, "Tommy, when you were a teenager, God called you to be an evangelist and everything in your life has led up to that end." When she said those words, I felt like someone poured hot oil in me. I have never been the same since.

**I knew then there would only be
two winning hands,
and they were nailed to the cross for me.**

I am now a volunteer chaplain and have preached the gospel in maximum-security prisons for several years. I am so thankful that God never gave up on me. He has given me the love that I was looking for and given me a new purpose in life. I know that God loves me, not because of my ability or performance, but because He is my Father, and I am His kid.

**It's now,
"Like Heavenly Father-Like Son!"**

NOTE: Tommy Thomas had his own TV program, which aired

weekly on Angel One Network called, How to beat the Odds. He interviewed folks who have been set free from all kinds of habits, attitudes & addictions. I, Kandi Rose was aired on his TV program Sept. 2007. He has also written a book called, “God & The Gambler.”

Log on to his website: www.howtobeattheodds.com © 2002-2008 He now has a radio program.“

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Destruction to Deliverance

Former Alcoholic and Addict

Christie Francis/Assoc. Outreach & Youth Minister

Where to start...all my life I claimed to know God and to love Him. I played church on and off. What I did, I did to please other people, not really even thinking about our heavenly Father.

I guess like most teenagers who wanted to fit in, I gave in to peer pressure. I started off by smoking cigarettes and drinking. Marijuana followed of course and I smoked it every day of my life for twenty plus years. I thought it was harmless.

I moved to New Orleans in 1993 and got married in 1994. We drank and smoked weed as part of our “normal” everyday lives. My drinking just got worse and worse, causing many fights and I eventually cheated on my husband. I tried to keep the secret but it was eating me alive. I couldn’t live with myself but I didn’t think he’d be able to forgive me.

The Destruction Increased

I had been chubby all my life and had always wanted to be skinny so I started using crystal meth. It was practically non-existent in the city I was in, so I’d do coke instead. When I came

home though, coke was hard to find but people I knew were making meth. I felt like I was ten feet tall and bulletproof. It took away my appetite, I was wide awake, and my house was spotless. I thought it was great until it started wreaking havoc on my skin and teeth. I weighed 78 pounds when I quit. I know now looking back that it was God who helped me quit. I couldn't see it then though. I said I quit that on my own.

My drinking and drug use ruined my first marriage because of the things I'd do when I was messed up. My drinking messed up a lot of friendships through the years too. I couldn't be depended on and I couldn't be trusted. My second marriage was a lot different from the first but my drinking and drug use was much the same. I didn't feel like I could get through a day without my weed and beer. In 2003 a friend and I had come home for my uncles funeral but I got so messed up we left early and headed back to New Orleans. We were in a wreck about halfway home. I spent more than three months in the hospital and lost about ten weeks of my life completely. Due to a head injury I couldn't remember those weeks at all. God kept me alive then for a reason but I wasn't quite ready to give up my partying.

My second husband asked me for a divorce and sent me home to Mama. I went to work for Habitat for Humanity as a member of Americorps. After my time had finished there I thought it would be easy to find a job, wrong! I went to work at a bar. My drinking and my attitude were so far out of control it wasn't funny. I'd alienated most of my friends and was real close to alienating my family completely too.

Looking back now I thank God they didn't give up on me. God knows I sure gave them plenty of reasons to. I started attending church some off and on again, and referred to myself as living for the Lord. When I'd leave church though, I'd pull out a joint and smoke it on the way to whatever party I was headed to. Nothing in my life changed no matter how many trips I made to the altar, or how many church services I attended. My family

was disgusted with me and I was disgusted with myself but I wasn't willing to change.

Deliverance taking place

The last time I drank was July 16, 2011. I drank so much that night I passed out in an ant bed. I got so many bites it sent me into anaphylactic shock. I woke up the next day in the intensive care unit. I gave up and gave in. I finally admitted it was a problem I couldn't control and I needed help. I knew a 30 day program wouldn't do me any good. July 20, 2011 I was on my way to Teen Challenge Women's Ministries. It was by far the hardest thing I'd ever done. Being so far away from home and family and everything I knew it would be tough. I'd been there a few months, faking it and doing what I had to just to get by. You learn humility and obedience right off the bat. I'd never been very good with either of those. One Sunday at church though God became so real to me. I cried and cried and spent most of the service at the altar. That is when my outlook on everything changed. I wanted to change. I became a child of God and I wanted to make my Father proud.

I didn't finish the program but went straight to work with my church when I got home. That church closed not long after but God brought us to Bradley Assembly of God where I am now the associate outreach/youth minister and am able to help others who are like I used to be. As outreach minister, I co-teach a recovery class using Kandi Rose's curriculum, Recovery Today~Any Habit. God put a burden on my heart for the lost and for the youth; to help those who are like I was and to help the youth avoid that kind of lifestyle. I tried and failed so many times on my own that it's not even funny. I was never following God then, though. I wanted to lead. Following God now is the most important thing to me. I pray He continues to use me however He sees fit to further His kingdom and to help others who believe they are beyond help.

Christie was a guest on Kandi's TV Show, "Addiction Free."