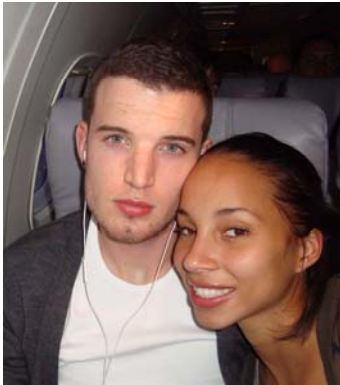

Caleb's Story



Alcohol was one of the problems that affected me in life. My Dad's an alcoholic; he has just come out of rehab. It took him years to admit he has got a problem and growing up as a teenager it's not good to be around. My mum and dad were always arguing and fighting, I would stick up for my mum, end up fighting my dad, then the police would have to come break us up.

My mum did what was best for us in the end she kicked my dad out.

This was a knock on effect at school because of problems at home. I was messing up at school. I never wanted to be at home so I would stay out late with mates on my estate we would cause trouble or play football that was the only way to take my mind of things.

Back when I was younger I was one of the only white boys and the youngest in the group of mates I hanged around with (gang), so if we got into trouble with a next gang I would get targeted for being white, they would leave my black mates and come straight for me, yes I think it was racist. How Ironic that the first magazine I end up in was talking about gangs and used my picture as an example from a fashion shoot I did for a big photographer Ben Cook.

The point I want to get across is that people may think they're safe in a gang but when someone pulls a Gun or a Knife on you; your so called mates will run and leave you. It's every man for himself. I know I have been there and people have left me I was shocked.

The final straw was one time my mate was getting beat up bad by two big men in there 20's he was 15 so was I and everyone just stood there and watched or run and left him I couldn't do the same so I stepped in, you know what happened my mate that was getting beat up run and left me to get beat up while everyone watched, I ended up badly beaten and in hospital, I never got a thank you and everyone said I was crazy for helping him. So my point is people just care for themselves only a few will help you when you're in trouble.

By the age of 20 I had no job but I've never had a problem with attention from girls, so my girl friend said I should become a model, I've never looked back since I quit playing Semi-Pro as a footballer to give 100% to the modeling. I've been doing it now for 2 years and its taken me that long to get where I am today. I've had a hell of a lot of rejection to get where I am today but now I'm with one of the top agencies in the country came so close to modeling in London Fashion Week and in three weeks time I'm doing a five page spread for a big designer called Vivienne Westwood and there's talk of me going on the front cover to.

At the end of the day I owe everything to my Mum and Girlfriend because she's the one that believed in me that I could turn my life around and now I don't have anything to do with them guys I was in a gang with.

