

# What one man lost at Theatair X

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*Shackled by despair, Robert Reschar swallowed a fistful of pain killers and chased them down with sleeping pills.*

*He crawled into bed next to his wife and started crying.*

*Reschar couldn't tell her that he'd gone to Theatair X—again. His chances were used up. She'd promised to divorce him if he went to the porn superstore one more time, and he knew she meant it.*

*In the darkness, he grieved over how far he'd fallen.*

The last remnants of Reschar's innocence were lost in the spring of 1994 when he was a senior at Henryville High School in Indiana. He and three friends decided it would be fun to check out Theatair X in Clarksville, Ind.

They all had heard stories about the sex business and decided to explore it for themselves. Inside they were greeted by items they'd seen before—pornographic magazines and explicit movie covers. But more curiosity led them down a dimly lit corridor where they discovered private booths for viewing pornography.

Reschar found the experience exhilarating. And even before leaving, he knew he'd be back.

Soon after graduation, he started working nights at the Rally's in Clarksville. After closing down the restaurant late at night, he began making regular stops at Theatair X, where explorations led to more discoveries—strip booths and a movie theater where he watched other customers engage in illegal behavior.

Before his 19th birthday, Reschar had a sexual encounter with another man inside Theatair X. It was his first of many anonymous meetings.

For the next four years, Reschar portrayed two opposing lifestyles—a sex addict at Theatair X and a Christian to family and friends.

It was a wretched existence, and in 1999, Reschar married, hoping a wife would end his appetite for Theatair X.

She didn't.

"Actually, it just made things a lot worse," he said.

Shortly after the honeymoon, Reschar found himself again standing in the neon glow of Theatair X.

A moment he'll never forget happened inside the porn store just outside the main theater. "I heard a lie from Satan," Reschar said. "He told me that I would be bound to Theatair X the rest of my life. And I believed it because I felt like I was beyond God's forgiveness."

As Reschar's sin began bubbling to the surface of his marriage, the couple sought help from counselors and support groups.

Nothing worked.

Reschar said he sometimes would even stop by Theatair X immediately after leaving a support group for sex addicts.

Reschar came close to hitting bottom the day he lost his job at Humana. That afternoon, he told his wife he was going for a drive to clear his head. He ended up staying the night at Theatair X.

The next day, Reschar confessed to his wife where he'd been.

"It was then that she told me we'd be divorced if I went there one more time," he said. "And I did."

Reschar hit rock bottom in 2002, the night he left Theatair X knowing his marriage was over. Ending his life seemed the only escape from the lure of sexual sin and deep self-loathing that always followed.

Lying next to his wife, Reschar knew the pills he'd taken would end his life within hours.



As he thought about whether heaven or hell waited for him, streams of tears turned to heaving sobs that woke his wife.

"What's wrong?"

"Everything."

Reschar admitted how he'd again failed her, and that he was dying from an overdose.

After a trip to the emergency room, Reschar was taken to the psychiatric unit where he stayed for three days.

When his wife picked him up from the hospital, she told him that their marriage was over and that she still wanted him to get help for his addiction.

She'd learned of Pure Life Ministries—a counseling center in Dry Ridge, Ky., that specializes in helping men overcome sexual sin.

"I jumped at the chance because I had nothing to lose," Reschar said.

In June of 2002, Reschar started a seven-month program in which he learned to practice the biblical disciplines of reading the Bible, praying and self control.

"It was during that time that I learned to live the Christian life, I mean to really live it,"

Reschar said. "For the first time I had hope."

Upon completion of the program, Reschar was asked to return as an intern. He went on to take counseling classes and currently works as a counselor at Pure Life while finishing his coursework.

"It feels good to know that I'm exactly where God wants me," Reschar said. "Helping other men is what I'm supposed to be doing right now."

Last month, Reschar was among the 400 people who attended the Clarksville Town Council meeting in which attorney Bryan Wickens asked the council to enforce local and state laws at Theatir X.

Toward the end of his remarks, Wickens, president of Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana (ROCK), told the council that another person wanted to speak. But because time ran out, the council never heard from him. That person was Reschar.

"Actually, part of me was glad that I didn't get to speak because I wasn't expecting that big of a crowd, and I didn't know the news stations would be there," he said. "But if I'd gotten the chance, I was going to tell them how Theatir X devastated my life, and that if they would enforce the laws already on the books, it would go a long way in stopping the criminal activity that takes place there every night."

Reschar said he knows Theatir X hasn't changed since the time he went there because many of the men he now counsels are recent customers of the porn store.

Reschar said he still passes Theatir X when he visits his parents who live in Southern Indiana.

"When I go by now, I pray that it would be shut down, and I pray for the people inside," he said. "It's destroying a lot of people."