

## **New Years 2005: Everyone Makes Mistakes**

“We learn from our mistakes” is a maxim that I never thought I would have to look back on. Of course, everyone makes mistakes in school or perhaps during a sporting event. However, I never thought I would have to look back for the mistake I made. I created a mistake that caused me to learn the hard way in life.

I have been the President of my class for three straight years, and I am very active in extra curricular activities such as cheerleading, mentoring, NHS, and my church fellowship group for young women. I have also been in school long enough to understand how hard people must work to achieve what they want to become in the future. Life in high school causes people to mature faster because of the things that they witness and discuss. I have witnessed people fighting, getting in accidents, and also talking about drugs and alcohol. Some of the things people learn throughout high school may influence their decisions and views on life.

New Year’s Eve is a night when many people toast or raise a glass, to bring in the New Year. On this day several people celebrate by throwing parties, or just hanging out with friends and family. This New Year’s Eve was a night I will never forget.

It was about five o’clock on New Year’s Eve and I had just gotten home from an eight-hour day at work. I had plans that night to go out with my boyfriend to dinner, and then to his sister’s house for a little New Year’s Eve get together. My parents were staying close to where his sister lived, with some close friends. They were going to pick me up from her house at 12:30 after the ball had dropped and they were going to take me to the hotel for the night. My boyfriend arrived at my house at 6:00, on time, and we went to Applebee’s for dinner. When we finished eating, he drove us to his sister Maggie’s house which was only ten minutes away. When we arrived it was eight o’clock p.m. and I had to call my parents to tell them we made it okay and that I would see them later. Before we had gotten there my intentions were not to do anything that would get me into trouble. Little did I know that an hour later my conscience would get the best of me. I had opened the refrigerator and had seen a big blue bottle. It read Boone’s Farm Blue Hawaiian wine cooler on the front. Maggie, Scott’s sister, told me to go ahead and finish it if I wanted it. So, I grabbed the bottle, knowing that my parents were coming to get me in a few hours. After drinking that, I was ready for more. I drank way too much that night and the last thing I remember after playing a drinking game was waking up on a bed delusional. I was freaking out about my parents coming in two hours. Scott did everything to make me sober up but all I did was fall down or go to sleep. Later I was sitting over a toilet vomiting for what felt like forever. All I could say was “I’m never going to drink again.” I finally was sober enough to walk, so everyone there made me practice walking, and they fixed my make-up to cover how horrible I must have looked. My parents picked me up and I instantly fell asleep in the car on the way back to the hotel. When I woke up, I got sick at least five times. My parents were finally sure of what I had done. Waking up was definitely the worst part of the whole incident. My dad and mom talked to me when we got home, and I owned up to what I had done. My dad tortured me all day by yelling and making me clean when all I wanted to do was sleep. My punishment later that week was to write an article for my school newspaper on the dangers of teen drinking. I also had to agree to go with them wherever they go next year for New Year’s. I believe the best part about my punishment was writing. I learned so much from my research on that article. Learning all that information convinced me to tell my story. I was lucky I didn’t drink enough to hurt myself. Many teens don’t know that binge drinking can kill them.

I know the story I told was a disappointing one but I believe the choices people make throughout their lives, even if they are mistakes, shape them to become a better person in life. I am a role model and a leader at my school and by showing others that anyone can make mistakes, maybe they will learn that they too can also learn from their own mistakes.