

Kevin Treasure blew tens of thousands on drugs and didn't give God a second thought. But he met his match when a preacher pulled him out of the crowd. Joy Tibbs spoke to him about his amazing transformation

Having grown up in a one-parent family on an estate in Battersea, Kevin Treasure found himself heading down the wrong path. Between the ages of 15 and 25 he smoked cannabis every day at a total estimated cost of £250,000.

"When I became a teenager I became a bit rebellious," he explains. "I started smoking weed and doing all kinds of things a teenager shouldn't do. I did some things I regret. Mainly it was that I got involved in drugs, with marijuana. A lot of marijuana. And girls and partying and raving."

Kevin's love of acting kept him out of real trouble and he somehow managed to keep his head education-wise. He attended drama school and university, although he describes university as 'a bit of a blur'. Others around him were facing similar battles and some of his childhood friends ended up in prison, while several others lost their lives at a young age.

He says: "There were some people I knew that crossed the line, but the way I was brought up, even though it was just my mother, there were some values that she instilled in me. I saw her work hard, she was never out of work. She instilled some values into me: there are some things you just shouldn't do.

"I knew that I had something missing. People told me about God as a teenager; some of my family were religious. But I just thought, 'OK, God is someone you call on when you're in trouble.' That's the

way I knew him. I knew that he was there and I knew he was good, and I knew that if I had a problem I could take it to him, but when you're young you're kind of far away from God."

Things began to change when Kevin turned 25.

"I'd had my girlfriend since I was 19 and she was 18, but let's just say I was with her but I was still doing what I was doing. My thing was girls and ganja.

"My cousin, who was wild, and I'm talking wild – he got a baby at 16, did all kinds of stuff – all of a sudden he comes over like, 'Kevin, I found Jesus, I've been to church.' I was like, 'OK, slow down.' 'Kevin, God healed me,' he said. 'God's a healer? Please! Whatever.' He was so excited about this Jesus. I was like, 'You need to calm down. You must be smoking more than I'm smoking!' But his life literally changed and I was intrigued."

Kevin, now 42, started seeking God and attended church a few times but didn't feel ready for 'Jesus stuff'. It took a dramatic encounter to change his mind.

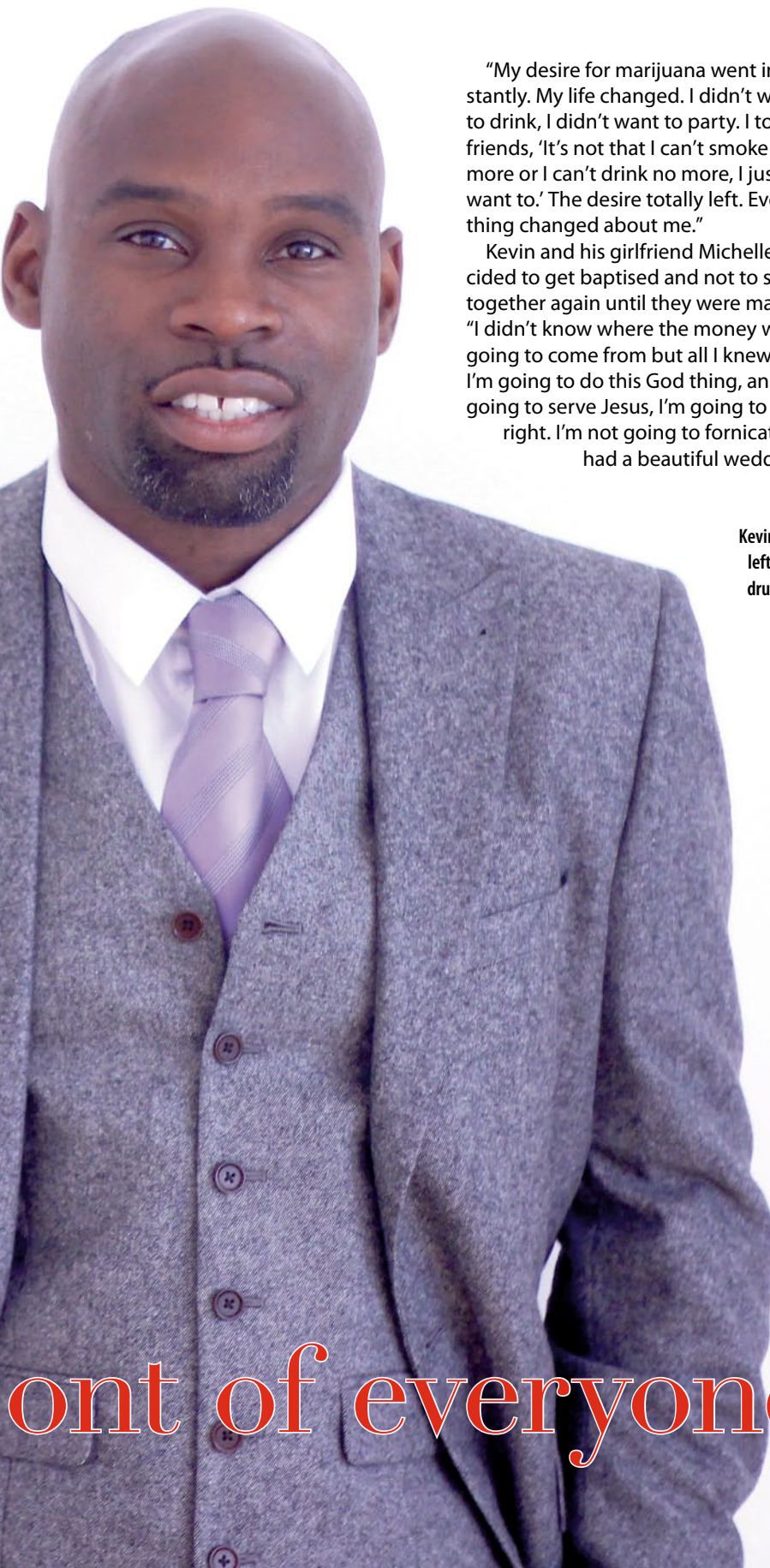
"There was this white lady from America, I'll never forget it. She was preaching and she started calling people out to come to the front. I had ganja in my pocket, so I was like, 'I'm not going up there. I'm not ready for all this.'

"I remember she walked to the back, where I was just minding my own business, and she said, 'You, young man. Come with me.' I was like, 'Aargh, what is this woman like? What does she want with

me?' So we walked to the front and she started prophesying. She said, 'I see you on a dark street. I see you late at night. And I see the devil tried to kill you!'

"When she said that, immediately my mind flashed back to the exact moment she was talking about. I was in Finsbury Park, a place that I shouldn't go, at a time I shouldn't have been there. I'd never met this lady before in my life. I just broke down like a baby in front of everyone. I mean, I was on the floor, snot, slobbering, I was crying like a baby. I went home and all I kept doing was crying. I'd come to church and I'm crying. And where I come from, you don't cry. Big men don't cry, so to speak.

'I cried like a baby in fr



"My desire for marijuana went instantly. My life changed. I didn't want to drink, I didn't want to party. I told my friends, 'It's not that I can't smoke no more or I can't drink no more, I just don't want to.' The desire totally left. Everything changed about me."

Kevin and his girlfriend Michelle decided to get baptised and not to sleep together again until they were married. "I didn't know where the money was going to come from but all I knew is if I'm going to do this God thing, and if I'm going to serve Jesus, I'm going to do it right. I'm not going to fornicate. We had a beautiful wedding."

Kevin Treasure left his life of drugs behind and has written three books

Some people wonder why their life's not changing. Well, what are you speaking?

Father-of-three Kevin has written several books, but his latest, *The Power of Words*, is his 'baby'.

"In 2008 I was studying and then Mark 11:23-4 jumped out of my spirit. It's about the cursing of the fig tree; and that you can have whatever you say. Every time I went into the Word of God I just started seeing the power of words.

"I started looking at people's lives, what people are saying – preachers and adults and young people – about their marriages and their children. I didn't know the Word of God had so much to do with the power of the words we speak. God did not do anything unless he spoke it. Obviously, we're made in his image.

"Some people are wondering why their life's not changing. Well, what are you speaking? There are women that pray for their husbands to change or for their husbands to be saved, but they pray one way and then when they get up they say something else, 'Oh you're no good.' That cancels out everything you've been praying about. Or you have an exam and you pray that you will pass, and then you get up from prayer and you say things like, 'Oh, I'll never pass my exams.'

"It's a contradiction and God can't work. He's about to work but you're snared by the words of your mouth. A lot of people desire change, but if you keep doing the same things you're doing you're always going to get what you've got. I'm just trying to get people to be aware of what they're saying, and it starts with what you're thinking.

"That's how the book came about. *The Power of Words* is my baby because it was divinely inspired. It came out of the Word of God."

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