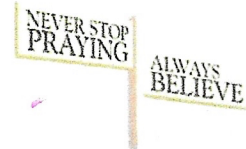


The Faith Based Solution to the
Addiction Epidemic



MARCH 2023



IT BEGAN AS JUST A WEEKEND THING -

A little weed and beer with my friends

My name is Zach and I am 36 years old. I am from Statesville, NC. I couldn't have asked for a better childhood. I had two loving and caring parents that worked hard to give my little sister and I everything we needed. My addiction started when I was about fifteen years old. It began as just a weekend thing, smoking a little weed and drinking some beer with my friends.

Not too long after graduating from high school, I was introduced to pain medication in which I took an extreme liking to. Nothing in this world could match the feeling it gave me. What started out as being something fun to do, escalated into heroin addiction. Over the years, I have been in and out of jail, had multiple overdoses and almost ended up living on the streets before I came here.

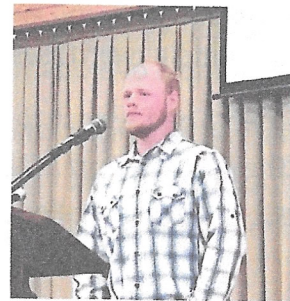
My life was in a bad way at the end of 2021, and I had an accident at work in Asheville, NC. I was sitting in the hospital hurt with nowhere to go when they discharged me. My cousin called me and told me about Men's Challenge of the Smokies. I knew it was time for a change and a different way of life.

Since I have been here, I have found out that living a life filled with Jesus is the only way to go. He is teaching me how to be content with what I have and to be humble in my ways. Being here is helping me develop better life skills and grow closer to God. I am thankful for my family never giving up on me and always being there for me, even after all that's happened. I am thankful for everybody at Men's Challenge of the Smokies, for all the love and care that they put into each of us. And last but not least, Jesus Christ, for all His love, grace, and mercy which He shows us. Right now I would have to say that my favorite Bible verse is Psalms 86:13. "For great is Your love toward me; You have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead".



NEW NAME / SAME PROGRAM

When our national organization began, it was called Teen Challenge because David Wilkerson started working with older teens in gangs. Over the years, the organization grew and has centers for adult men, adult women and teenagers (boys and girls). The name "Teen" was confusing to a lot of people because there were so many adult centers. Later, the name was changed to Adult and Teen Challenge, but some thought that name meant that they did both. There has been a lot of confusion for us locally as well. We get many calls asking for help with teens. When we go to churches, they often ask why we are called Teen Challenge when we are all men. We are excited to announce that the national office has given us permission to change our name to Men's Challenge of the Smokies—a ministry of Adult and Teen Challenge.



Congratulations to Jason and Hunter who graduated last month. After graduation, Jason will be an intern at a Teen Challenge program in Georgia. Hunter will be living in the Graduate Cabins and working locally. Our next graduation will be held Saturday, March 18, 2023.

TO MAKE A DONATION:

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