

The Faith Based Solution to the
Addiction Epidemic

May 2023



MY ADDICTION STARTED AS A TEEN

My name is Kevin. I'm 30 years old and I am from Jackson County. Growing up I had a great childhood. My parents provided everything me and my sister needed and took us to church every Sunday.

My addiction started as a teen. I started hanging out with older people, just trying to fit in. It started with pot and as time went on I was introduced to harder drugs. Eventually I was so addicted, I felt like there was no way out. I was lost and hopeless. I had stepped away from Jesus, quit going to church and was on a one way road to destruction. I put the drugs before everything and everyone in my life. I pushed away the people I loved the most and ended up homeless. I had no one to turn to and had gotten in trouble with the law. I had to hit rock bottom so the only thing I could do was look up and realize I needed Jesus. I got arrested and while I was in jail, I started praying and asking God to show me what I needed to do. I called my family, trying to get them to come get me out of jail. They found Men's Challenge of the Smokies and told me the only way I was getting out of jail is if I agreed to come to their program.

My problems started when I stepped away from Christ. Since I have been in Men's Challenge of the Smokies, I have been learning that only God can free us from addiction and true peace is only found through Him. Since coming to the here, I have realized that doing things my way doesn't work. I need God in my life.

I am thankful that my family never gave up on me and that they continued to pray. I'm also grateful for God's grace. It is only by His grace that I am alive today. I am grateful for a second chance and knowing that God has a purpose for my life.

My favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11—13. "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find me when you seek Me with all your Heart. I will be found by you declares the Lord and will bring you back from captivity."



BAPTISM

On March 21, ten men were baptized. Each of the men shared why they were wanting to be baptized. We thank the Lord for the work that He is doing in their hearts. What a special day!

Furniture is one of our store's biggest sales items. If you have some nice used furniture you aren't using, please consider taking it to our Thrift Store, 4812 US Hwy. 441 S., Sylva. Please call Norma at 828-586-9966 to be sure it is something we can sell. No pick ups—sorry—don't have the staff. Thank you all very much for supporting this ministry.



Congratulations to Nick and Adam! Nick will be serving as an intern here at Men's Challenge of the Smokies. Adam will be living in the Graduate Cabins and working locally. There will not be a graduation service in May. Our next graduation will be Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 10:00 am.

TO MAKE A DONATION:

P.O. BOX 2157, Franklin, NC 28744 /OR GIVE ONLINE at our website: www.livinghopeway.com

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT US AT: 828-524-2157/Thrift Store: 828-586-9966

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