



NOVEMBER 2023



*The Faith Based Solution to the
Addiction Epidemic*



My name is Bobby. I am 38 yrs .old and I'm from Jackson County. I had a good childhood and we were in church a lot. My addiction started when I was about 12. I tried weed for the first time and I liked how it made me feel. When I started high school, I ran cross country and played baseball. I lettered in cross country my freshman year. My coach said if I kept it up, I would end up with a scholarship. After cross country season in 10th grade, in a hunting accident, I was accidently shot in the leg.

My dreams of getting a scholarship were crushed. So I turned to drugs. I moved away from home and in with a guy I knew who sold meth. That's when my addiction got bad. I used every day for a couple of years and dropped out of school. I met my first wife who soon became pregnant. I quit using meth, but started smoking weed and using pills every day. Eventually, the drugs came between me, my wife and two sons so she left. My addiction got worse. I started using a needle and was doing crazy things. I ended up killing a bear on the Parkway and was sent to prison for 10 months. That didn't slow me down. When I got out of prison, I met my 2nd wife. Our relationship was built around drugs. We were blessed with 3 beautiful little girls. About 6 months after my youngest was born, I got my first felony. I was given a chance to get help for my addiction. It was just a 'get out of jail free card' for me and I really wasn't ready to leave my addiction. I went to an Adult & Teen Challenge program, left after a short time, violating my probation. I was then sent to prison for 28 months. When I got out I went right back to my addiction. I was only out 59 days and was caught again and sent back for 26 1/2 months for more drug charges. I got just as many drugs in prison as on the street. So when I got out, I was already at it again. I was out just 35 days and was caught on 2 trafficking charges while on parole. So I had to do 9 months parole time before I dealt with new charges.

I felt helpless and hopeless. So, in prison, I called on the only one who could help. I confessed to God all I had done and repented. In that 9 months, I became a new man and stayed in the Word. When I came back to Haywood County Detention Center, I spoke to someone who said he would try to get me into Men's Challenge of the Smokies. The doors opened for me to be accepted into the program. My charges were reduced, but I was still facing 14 years, but instead was given 2 years probation. Now my two oldest daughters have been saved and I have been reconciled to my family. God has totally restored my family and health. He has broken my chains of addiction. Without God and Men's Challenge, I don't know where I would be.

Luke 9:62—"And Jesus said unto him, no man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back is fit for the Kingdom of God."





I was trying to fill a void only Jesus can fill...

My name is Cayden. I am 21 years old and was born and raised in Macon County. I had a good childhood. Growing up, my mom took me to church all of the time so I knew of God, but I didn't personally know God and I didn't read the Bible. So I didn't know how to live a life pleasing to God.

I had my first drink of alcohol when I was about 12 years old and I liked the way it made me feel. That led me to drinking twice a day just about every day once I got into high school. When I was 15, I got in trouble at school for drinking and had to see a juvenile probation officer for about a week. She let me off the hook and I never saw her again so I went right back to drinking. When I turned 16, I started partying a lot. I remember going to church with my Mom one Sunday and I saw people from Men's Challenge there. I thought to myself, "I don't have a problem. I just like to have fun", so I continued partying. When I was 19, I wrecked my truck on Wayah Rd. because of drinking and driving. Luckily, I was alone and no one was involved in the wreck, but I was ejected from my truck and was lost in the woods all night long. I asked God to help me get back home and that if He kept me alive, I would actually start living my life for Him. I made it out of the woods and got home with only a few broken ribs.

After that I didn't hold up my end of the deal with God and I kept drinking and living my life how I wanted. That led me to flipping my jeep about 8 months later and getting a DUI. After that I quit drinking and I lost my license for a year. I did good for about 6 months and then I went back to drinking. I was driving with no license and I got pulled over and got another DUI.

After I got out of jail, my mom mentioned Men's Challenge of the Smokies and I accepted fact that I had a problem. I filled out the application and the doors flew open for me to come. I got saved, genuinely gave my life to God on March 21, 2023, and was baptized at Men's Challenge of the Smokies. The Lord has been showing me the I've been trying to fill a void in my life with alcohol that only Jesus Christ can fill. I'm thankful that I'm getting my life right, now, before it got worse. My favorite Bible verse is Galatians 5:16, 17: "This I say then, walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would".



Our next graduation will be Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 10:00am at 336 Living Hope Way, Franklin, NC. We hope you will join us.

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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