



July 2018

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC



Roddy

I was born in Tuscon, AZ and moved here from Sedona, AZ. I was raised in a Christian home and got saved when I was a young boy. When I entered by teenage years, I became infatuated with the Rock n Roll scene and began to idolize figures like Curt Cobain and Keith Richards. Music was my dream and whisky and cigarettes were the primary fuel in embracing the early lifestyle of Rock n Roll. My friends and I would create as much chaos and rebellion as we could. I was expelled twice in my high school years. After graduation things went from snowballing to avalanche. I would have done anything to inflate my image. The days got harder, the people I surrounded myself with got worse and I started to see what the back of a cop car felt like on a consistent basis.

At this point in my life, things began to feel less like chasing my dream and more like adding chains to a life of slavery. In 2014, I was drunk behind the wheel of my truck and woke up in a hospital bed in Flagstaff after a bad accident had brought severe physical injuries. As I tried to recognize God's grace and mercy in my life, my recovery and physical rehab would take 6 months. All along I was using prescription pain killers to aid me in the process. After the script ran out, I was left dependent on opiates and began IV-ing heroin to get by. As a little more time passed, it was no longer just heroin. I was shooting practically anything I could get my hands on and I was now engulfed by and chained down to addiction's darkest corners. My darkest moment came when my best friend overdosed in my arms and as the paramedics revived her, I sat in my truck shooting the very same score that nearly took her life. My most desperate moment came when she was sold, what I think was, cement in a small bag. And yes, I did try to inject it into my blood stream.

It was "these" moments that caused my cry to Jesus Christ to be heard. After being arrested 7 times in 2017, I gave way to surrender and came to Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies. Since being here, I have learned from my acts of rebellion. It hasn't been easy and I certainly have had struggles along the way, but I believe God is teaching me to have a spirit of obedience to His purposes. He has given me hope again and raised Him for the kindness He has shown me.

★ *Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies Graduation* ★



Saturday, August 25, 2018 at 6:00 pm

336 A. G. Camp Rd., Franklin, NC

The Public is invited to attend

Reception following graduation



RSVP by August 15, 2018: 828-524-2157 or [betty@mtcots.com](mailto:betty@mtcots.com)



New Wood Shop - outside



New Wood Shop - inside



Graduate Housing

The men had been using the auditorium for their wood shop but have now relocated it to what used to be a picnic pavilion. Doing the work themselves under the supervision of Harold Johnson, they were able to renovate the pavilion using wood and other materials either donated or that we had on hand already. The auditorium will now be able to be used for programs. The next project will be to get cabins renovated for Graduate Housing. Permits have been applied for and that will soon get underway.

### 40th and 60th

I started ministry as a youth pastor in June of 1978, so this year marks 40 years of ministry for me. I can't think of anywhere I'd rather be in my 40th year of ministry than Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies, because of the call, the miracles, and most of all, the transformation of men's lives. To God be the glory!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that Betty and I got married that same year in December (we met at Bible College). Betty has been my partner in ministry for 40 years as well. My mom used to say "You two make a good team." Words can't express what she means to me and how much I appreciate all she has done in ministry these 40 years.

July also marks the 60th anniversary of Teen Challenge. David Wilkerson started this ministry in 1958. Betty and I are honored to be able to go to the national conference celebrating this anniversary in Washington DC. There will be special services, teaching, and training. We will also be attending a special meeting of all the Center Directors with Joe Batluck, the President of Teen Challenge USA.

*Mike and Betty Barrow*



**Needs:** monthly support, Graduate Cabin Renovations on 5 cabins (5k each), 4 picnic tables

We have 4 men who are in our program and are unable to pay the tuition cost of \$300 a month if you would like to help with that.

### TO MAKE A DONATION:

P.O. BOX 2157, Franklin, NC 28744 /OR GIVE ONLINE at our **NEW website: [www.mtcots.com](http://www.mtcots.com)**

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT US AT: 828-524-2157/[betty@mtcots.com](mailto:betty@mtcots.com) /Thrift Store: 828-586-9966

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