



February 2018

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC



God Has Shown Me Love

I am 21 years old and the oldest of 3 children. My family went to church but I didn't really know much about God. I was unhappy with myself, unsatisfied with life—sad. I hated God. I cursed at Him and I remember saying to myself, "If there is a God, I wouldn't feel this way". I felt out of place. I was missing something in my life. There was a void inside of me. My family loved me and I grew up in a good home with everything I needed. But still I was sad and eventually became an angry person. I hated life and I didn't like people. But how could I when I didn't even like myself?

I started smoking cigarettes and dipping to cope with life when I was in Middle School. In High School I got introduced to weed. It opened me up to all other drugs which eventually escalated to meth. I put drugs before everything just so I could cope with life. The emptiness in me was bigger than ever and there was nothing inside of me. I was a hollow shell.

Over the years it took me away from my family. My parents lost a son. My brother and sister lost their brother. I eventually came to a point of loneliness where I gave up on life. In January 2017, I overdosed two times. In July of that year, I went to the ER three times in three days. They said there was nothing they could do for me. I was losing the function of my body and my mind. All hope was lost. I was dead in my sin and there was nothing I could do. I was dying. A few days passed and I was still alive. I couldn't comprehend it. I should have been dead.

In John 10:10 it says, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly". I started reading the Bible and it gave me an inner peace and happiness. It touched my heart. I got baptized on August 6, and August 7, I came into Teen Challenge. My body, heart, mind and soul were everywhere but together. In Psalm 107:20 it says, "He sent His Word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions."

Since I have been at Teen Challenge, God has shown me love and given me love for others. He has given me godly men to help me put the Bible into practice. I got baptized, but I had no clue how to be Christ-like. The staff have helped me learn coping skills and helped me with my anger. God has given me brothers to help me. In Proverbs 27:17 it says, "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend". I not only love myself but all people. "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my strength; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold" Psalm 18:2. I have no plans for the future right now but I know He will lead me when the time comes.



Thank you to all who have made the renovations of the duplex possible by your financial gifts. And thank you to Harold Johnson for supervising our men to get the work done. The guys have done a great job. We will soon be able to move staff in the duplex which will free up space in the dorm for more men in our program.



Call Betty (524-2157) in the office if you, your church or other group would like to cook a meal and bring it out to the men. We have 11 students and usually a couple of staff who would be eating with them. This could be a one time event or on a regular basis. Also, we buy a lot of coffee, milk, and lunch meat. If you would like to take one of these on as a project for your group to help supply, that would be a real blessing for us.



NEEDS:

- ⇒ Van - 8, 10, 12 or 15 passenger
- ⇒ Carpet fitness center
- ⇒ 2 palm sanders
- ⇒ Cordless drill batteries



Mike and Betty Barros

TO MAKE A DONATION:

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