



October 2018

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC



## THE RECKLESS LOVE OF GOD

I shouldn't be writing this. I should be dead or in jail. It's only by the reckless love of God that I'm able to tell you my story.

Nathan

I am 24 years old now and I've been in addiction for 8 years. My addiction progressed very fast from when I was 15, only smoking weed, to at age 18 being addicted to prescription opiates. Between those years, I was sent away to multiple mental hospitals/rehabs. I would cry myself to sleep and was so angry at my parents for sending me away. I became so lost and broken during my addiction. I felt hopeless thinking that I would be a drug addict the rest of my life. I tried moving away a few times and admitted myself into a few secular rehabs. I moved to Colorado to try and get off pain killers and found myself addicted to the meth. I soon moved back to Georgia to get help, but then remained addicted to meth and opiates. Stealing and manipulating my family and friends became a daily habit to get high. I got caught stealing some guns and jewelry from family and had a choice to either face charges or go to a year long rehab.

I came to Teen Challenge after some crazy events happened and there I was standing at Teen Challenge, suicidal and lost, not sure what I wanted from life and not sure if I could ever quit doing drugs. I wanted to change, but wasn't sure how that looked. I really couldn't imagine life without drugs.

I had been fighting this God thing my whole life. I would tell myself there wasn't a God because if there was and He actually loved me, then I wouldn't feel the way I did. My entire life I was seeking the wrong things to try and fill that emptiness that only God can fill. God is so real. He has given me peace that I cannot explain. He has given me a hope and a future just like it promises in Jeremiah 29:11.

I never thought our God was a tangible God, but He is. He sent us Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. He also gave us His Word, which has become a blessing to my heart. I'm beginning to trust in God more each day because I truly do believe that He will never forsake me.

I hope that people can see Jesus in me and that He still saves and heals.





The first two graduate cabins are completed and are now in use. Above is graduate, and now intern, Rick Shays, standing in the doorway of the cabin he is living in. Thank you to those whose generous donations made this possible. Work has begun on cabins 3, 4, & 5.

## September Graduation Postponed

Due to hurricane Florence, our September graduation service was postponed. Curtis lives on the east coast and had to get home before the storm hit. So we had a prayerful and emotional send off with students and staff. We shared Curtis' story in our April 2018 newsletter of how he had been in addiction for 20 years before coming to Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies. He described going through withdrawal from opiates and benzos which led to a psychotic breakdown and resulted in him hanging himself in a jail cell. He was found just in time. As he cried out to God to change his life, he said he felt the presence of God and His mercy. Against all odds legally, he was allowed to come to Teen Challenge and after 12 months, has successfully completed the program. We are proud of what Curtis has accomplished through God's help and wish him the best. We will have Curtis come back to be a part of a future graduation.



***Come join us in support and celebration as Nathan and Marcus graduate on October 27 at 6:00pm***. Contact Betty at the office if you would like to help supply refreshments for the reception ( 828-524-2157 or [betty@mtcots.com](mailto:betty@mtcots.com)).



This month we had the joy and privilege of baptizing Nathan and Justin. It's so exciting and encouraging as we see the Lord changing lives.



*Mike and Betty Barrow*

### TO MAKE A DONATION:

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