



Mike

NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST

I have been addicted to alcohol and drugs for about 14 years.

At the age of five, I went through severe physical abuse that changed my life from the life of a normal child, to a child filled with emptiness, confusion and low self esteem. Through the years growing up I tried to fit in with the older crowd. That led me to start using tobacco, marijuana and alcohol by the time I was in 5th grade. It quickly escalated from there. I became lost in the world. I started stealing from family and friends, becoming a criminal and started getting arrested when I was in 7th and 8th grade. It was easier for me to hang out with a rough crowd where I felt more accepted. I didn't feel worthy to be alive anymore. I had suicidal thoughts and attempted suicide. When I was younger, I never thought that I would be doing these things. After back surgery I started using IV drugs. I knew about God but struggled that He would let me go through the abuse as a child.

After years of addiction, I ended up in Highlands, NC. My last DUI was there. I was in court in Macon County on my third offense. Guys had told me that usually means a minimum of a year in prison. I was at court and my lawyer told me I should probably get ready to go away for a while. But by a miracle I was let go. A couple of weeks later I was at a friend's house intoxicated. I thought about where my life was at. I cried out to God to help me. The next morning I got out my phone to look at Google Maps. The phone was new but when I opened Google Maps the directions for Teen Challenge pops up. After praying for God to help me, I took it as a sign. I called them and then just showed up there with the application.

That was last November. I was in the program for about 4 months. I was following the rules, doing what I was suppose to do. Then I went through a hard time and I ended up leaving the program. Pastor Mike called me and after a few days I came back. I knew I had to do things differently when I went back. I am discovering my new Identity in Christ. My focus now is seeking God's will in all I do, using my past as fuel for my future. I am creating new Biblical habits in my life, with living by and memorizing the Word of God. Now after being here at Teen Challenge I have hope. I am actually excited about my future.

(Philippians 3:13-14) "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."





Graduation Celebration



Marcus



Nathan



Reception



Roddy



Prayer for Graduate

Graduation is such a special time. On October 27, Marcus and Nathan graduated. Roddy graduated on November 17. We are so proud of these men! Thank you to all who have supported them and for those who have help us with their receptions.



Baptisms - This past month Mike and Keith baptized Josh and Jonathan in the chilly Cullasaja River.



SANTA & MRS. CLAUSE will be at our Thrift Store on Saturday, December 15, from 11:00am - 2:00pm. We are located at 4812 US 441 South, between Franklin and Sylva. Bring the kids to visit Santa and shop at our store. We have a wide variety of items great for your gift giving list.

Mike and Betty Barres



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE MEN- Give us a call at the office if you or your church or group would be interested in giving gifts to our men this year.

NEEDS - 4 dehumidifiers, ceiling mount propane heater for wood shop, gutters (\$2500)



TO MAKE A DONATION:

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

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

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