



Justin

Drugs and Alcohol Just Didn't Satisfy

I was raised in church and baptized at 7 years old. God pulled at my conscience and soul through all my sin. I battled shame and guilt after ignoring convictions. However, when sin runs deep, His grace is more.

In middle school I began to play sports. Popularity became a factor. I transitioned from a private school and home school to a public high school which was a bit of a culture shock. I was introduced to tobacco and then weed for the first time at 15. Next thing you know I was attending drinking parties and skipping school.

I quit varsity basketball my senior season and my focus became completely party oriented. After graduation, I got involved with harder drug use. I used an assortment of drugs including stimulants, benzos, opiates and psychedelics. My life took a downward spiral from there and at one point I had 16 felonies on two separate cases.

I got into a relationship with a girl I thought I loved. It was bound to fail from the outset and after the heart break, I began to deal weed in addition to my job as restaurant manager. My life was stressful and out of control. I was drinking more often and one drunk night I tried meth for the first time. This new addiction took control of my life and I lived such a nasty existence filled with fear and destruction. I escaped by the grace of God after having a near death experience. I was missing something inside and drugs and alcohol just didn't satisfy. (Ecclesiastes 2:10, 11) *"Everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind..."*

At this point I realized I didn't want any of this. I took all the money I had made from selling weed and I brought it to my dad in tears, asking him to forgive me. From that moment on something in my heart changed and my relationship with my family was restored. I was reading my Bible and starting to understand it. A girl at work told me about a Bible College. I was making steps to apply and I was going to get baptized as part of the process. The day of my baptism, I relapsed. My parents invited me to a Christian concert. I'll never forget everybody worshipping God in that place and feeling so joyful. I got drunk that same night. I needed help. The next morning at church I asked the elders to pray for me. They asked me about my drug problem, still smelling the alcohol on my breath. They talked to me about going to a rehab and offered to pay for it. That same day I quit my job and headed to a detox facility in Florida before going to Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center.

Now at Teen Challenge I have a year to focus solely on my relationship with God. Since I've been here, I have been transformed by the renewing of my mind. I feel like things are finally moving in the right direction. I thank God for rescuing me and He gets all the credit for this new life I now have. (2 Cor. 4:6)



UPCOMING GRADUATION



Come join us in support and celebration as
Cole and Michael graduate:

Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center

336 AG Camp Rd., Franklin, NC

Saturday, February 23, 2019

At 2:00 pm



This past month the men have had the opportunity to sing and share testimonies at First Alliance Church, Coweeta Baptist Church, Pine Grove Baptist Youth Group and Burgess Chapel.



Mike and Betty Barres

NEEDS: 2 dehumidifiers, gutters (\$2500), cafeteria flooring (\$3500), central air downstairs (\$7200). Contact us if you would like to help towards these projects.

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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