



Welcome  
SPRING



## MEN'S CHALLENGE CONNECTION

MARCH 2025



***I was broken, lost, and confused but some how God saw me at my lowest and picked me up from the pit of my despair.***

My name is Eddie and I'm 25 years old from Miami, Florida. My childhood was pretty rough growing up. My dad was an abusive man, who sold drugs my whole life and my mom was constantly high and distant. Me and my two sisters were taken away by DCF when I was five years old and we were placed in a group home with my mom for around a year until our grandparents took us in. Sadly, that wasn't much of a better situation.

The first time I got high was at the age of seven but I didn't start using all the time on a daily basis until the age of twelve. It all started with weed until I got older. I joined a gang at the age of fourteen and that's really when my path of illegal activities got worse. I dropped out of school at sixteen. I had just finished the eleventh grade and shortly after my grandma passed away. I was forced to move out at the age of seventeen. I had gotten a place and continued my bad habits. At this point, I was the spitting image of my dad. I was selling drugs and doing all I could to please myself but it would never last. I was arrested over ten times from the age of eighteen to twenty-four. I was homeless over four times; the longest span of time being nine months at the age of twenty-one to twenty-two. The worst of my drug addictions was at twenty-one when I decided to try crack cocaine and then fentanyl at twenty-two. That led to over eight overdoses. I was broken, lost, and confused but some how God saw me at my lowest and picked me up from the pit of my despair.

My grandparents offered me to come to Men's Challenge back in 2022 but I wasn't ready until I was hit by a car in December 2023. I was crossing the street at 2am in Miami and I realized I had no other option but to finally surrender. I have been so grateful since I've come to this program and it's all thanks to Christ that I have a new opportunity at life. I stand here today as a miracle, I believe, delivered from eleven attempted suicides and eight overdoses, all of which should have taken my life. But God had a different plan for me. He has shown me what it is to truly love one another and how lost I truly was without him in my life. I had nothing when I came here but now I feel whole with God by my side. All I can do is say *thank you* to him for delivering me from all of my troubles.

*"Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me." Philemon 1:11*



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# MEN'S CHALLENGE HAPPENINGS



*The men had another productive Mission's Monday working at a local church in Swannanoa. They installed counter tops and set cabinets in the church's fellowship hall that was flooded, and they replaced a door and paneling on two storage buildings that were flooded. These guys work hard to serve our mountain communities, and we are so proud of what the Lord is doing in their lives.*




*Thankful for the recent opportunity to share testimonies and worship with these wonderful congregations.*

**Decade of HOPE Gala**

Monday, March 31st 6pm  
DISCOVER CHURCH

For more info



A Fundraiser for Men's Challenge of the Smokies

## Save the Date



**Our next graduation:  
Saturday, March 15th 10am  
336 Living Hope Way  
Reception immediately following  
Everyone is invited to attend**



### TO MAKE A DONATION:

PO Box 2157, Franklin, NC 28744 or ONLINE at our website: [www.livinghopeway.com](http://www.livinghopeway.com)



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT US AT: 828-524-2157 Thrift Store: 828-586-9966

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