



APRIL 2021



# Adult & Teen Challenge

of the Smokies  
Men's Center

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC

## I CRIED OUT TO GOD FOR HELP

My name is Nick. I am 26 years old and was born in Sarasota, Florida. My parents worked very hard for my sister and I. They went above and beyond to provide for all our needs and even some of our wants too. Our family was involved in the local church where my mother sang in the worship band every Sunday. I was taught at a young age about the salvation given to us through faith in Jesus Christ. So I gave Him my heart at the age of 8, even though I didn't fully understand what that meant at the time. However, looking back now, I can see the Holy Spirit's presence in my life. It was Jesus who gave me compassion, empathy and what I used to think was just a strong conscience. This served me well in the private school I attended until 9th grade when I started attending public high school. During my first year of high school, I made the mistake of giving my heart away to my girlfriend. I didn't realize it at the time, but I now know that I idolized her and in doing so, I lost sight of the true light of my life, Jesus Christ. At 16, my heart was broken in our separation. So in an attempt to alleviate my loneliness and depression, I began smoking and drinking. In the trenches that became my life, I lost sight of my family, my God, and my purpose in Him. My drug use culminated when my best friend took his own life and I blamed myself for it. My depression deepened when my girlfriend was killed in a car wreck. She died in my arms that night and in the midst of the worst moment of my life, I cried out to God seeking help.



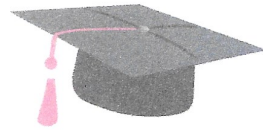
This moment of desperation brought me back to Him. God answered my call for help through a series of confirmations which directed me to Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center. Needless to say, it piqued my interest when my lawyer also highly recommended Teen Challenge to me.

Since arriving here, I have seen Jesus change lives in a mighty way. He has saved me, forgiven me, given me a new heart and a mission to serve Him for the rest of my days. I have learned that God can use evil for good, and because of this, even suffering has meaning. For in it we can be taught perseverance and reliance on the one who overcame ultimate suffering for my sake; Jesus Christ, my Savior. Now my only wish is to be closer to Him as a faithful steward of all He has given. My favorite verses right now are 2 Corinthians 1:3-6.

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners,*

*Christ died for us. -Romans 5:8*

## OUR NEXT GRADUATION



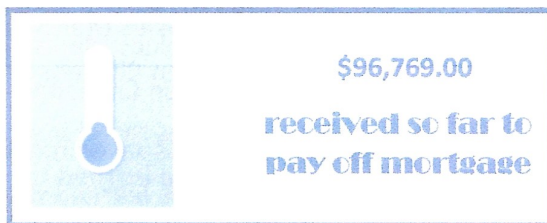
**You're invited** to attend our next graduation on **SATURDAY, APRIL 10, AT 10:00am**. It will be held in our auditorium at Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center, 336 Living Hope Way, Franklin, NC.



Thank you Holly Springs Baptist for inviting our men to sing and give testimonies. They enjoyed the meal afterwards and the time of fellowship.



Oscar and Lucas were baptized on March 23. As always, it was a very special occasion.



*Christ  
is  
Risen!*

### TO MAKE A DONATION:

P.O. BOX 2157, Franklin, NC 28744 /OR GIVE 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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