



APRIL 2022

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC



## I Asked God to Step Into My Life and Change Me

My name is Hunter. Growing up I had a really good childhood. I lived in Sylva, NC and I have one full brother. My first love was deer hunting with my grandfather and father. My mother and father made sure that we were in church almost

every Sunday. Both of them worked very hard to make sure me and my brother had everything we needed.

I was very rebellious in my teenage years. My mother and father both tried to keep me out of trouble. My addiction started at 15, when I started smoking weed and drinking beer. Over the next 10 years, something that I didn't think was a big deal, turned into a meth and heroin addiction. At this point in my life, I didn't care anymore about anything other than getting high and the devil had full control over my life. I overdosed 10 times. Nothing seemed to slow me down. I had been in jail for a number of drug charges and I was looking at 13 years in prison. The last time I was incarcerated, I saw an inmate that stood out from all the others. He would sing and there would be joy on his face like he was happy to be in jail. So one day I asked him what he was taking that made him so happy because I wanted some. That inmate looked at me and said, "I take only the Word of God ". He told me that I could have that same joy and happiness, I just had to ask God for it.

That night in my cell was the first time I prayed and asked God to step into my life and change who I was. About a month later, a man visited me in jail and talked to me about doing 12 months at Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center. After being in the program for about 2 months, I fully surrendered my life over to the Lord.

Since then, God has started taking down all the walls I had put up to keep myself from getting hurt. God has started changing the way I think, the way I use my words, and the way I look at my life. At Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center, I am being taught how to use the Bible and God as my life tools and not look at the world. I am thankful for my family who never gave up on me. I am thankful for this program and all the staff, for what they do. And I am most thankful that God stepped into my life before it was too late. My favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take".







We are so excited to announce that we have paid off the mortgage loan on our facility! So many of you have prayed and given to help make this possible. "Some planted, some watered and God gave the increase" (1 Cor 3:6). We will be having a mortgage burning ceremony with some special guests at the close of our next graduation.

We hope you will join us to celebrate another graduation and this incredible milestone on :

Saturday, April 16, 2022

at 10:00am in the auditorium

finger foods will be served afterwards

Baptism in the Cullasaja River







## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION!



Congratulations to Nick and Lucas on their graduation which was held on March 19, 2022. We are so proud of these guys. Nick will be staying on as an Intern.

## TO MAKE A DONATION:

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

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

Like us on Facebook "Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies" and share our page