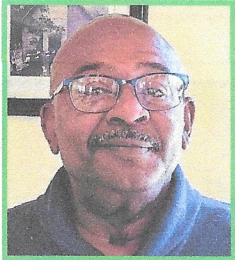


April 2024



The Faith Based Solution to the  
Addiction Epidemic



## I went down as King David and came up David, a servant of the one true living God.

My name is David. I am a 59 year old from Charleston, South Carolina. My childhood was good. I was in church anytime the doors were opened. I gave my life to Christ at the age of eight. But for a lack of understanding and teaching, I let go of his hand and lordship.

For the first eight years of my life, it was just mom and I. At the age of one, my three older brothers died in a fire. By the age of eight, my younger brother came along and I had to grow up quickly with a single mom. It meant I had to help with my younger brother and the house. My addiction started when I was twelve years old with alcohol and marijuana. I got out of the Army at twenty-one and made one of the worst decisions of my life, to take a hit of crack cocaine. This would send me on a downward spiral for the next 38 years. Pride, anger, and unforgiveness ruled my life. At my worst, I lost my house, cars and money. I had three failed marriages, served jail and prison time and was homeless. I destroyed relationships with my brother and son.

Before coming here, I was in a very dark place and I cried out to God. He reached down and pulled me out of the mirey clay and brought me here to 336 Living Hope Way. Through an illness, God showed me that the King in me needed to die. There in the hospital, with my liver failing, I had no control. All I could do was to cry out and ask God to have mercy on me and forgive my disobedience. During that 10 day stay in the hospital, he healed my liver and allowed the process of killing King David.

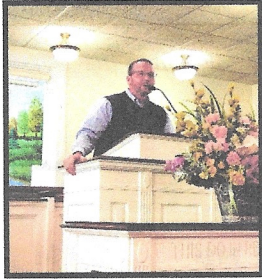
On August 13, 2023, in the river next to the property, I was baptized. I went down as King David and came up as David, a servant of the one, true living God. I am thankful to God for his great, patient love and for a place like Men's Challenge of the Smokies, where men can come and heal body, mind and spirit.

My life verse is Philippians 4:11 "Not that I speak in regards of want. For I have learned, whatever situation I am in to be content."





***Our next graduation will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 10am.  
We hope you will join us.***



***Thank you to the following congregations for the opportunity for our men to share their testimonies and to minister in song: Little Savannah Baptist Church, , Mount Hope Baptist Church, Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, Access Church-Asheville and Watauga Baptist Church.***



I am enjoying my new position as Executive Pastor. I am teaching classes, helping with chapel, helping with Men's Challenge church services, meeting with supporters and pastors, and helping with some special projects. In my new position, I am working about 30 hours a week. ~ Mike Barres



On March 11th, Eddie was baptized in the river. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17

**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**

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