



AUGUST 2023



*The Faith Based Solution to the
Addiction Epidemic*



THE LORD NEVER STOPPED CHASING ME

My name is Brandon. I'm from Franklin, NC and I'm 38 years old. Growing up I had a good childhood. I was introduced to pot and drinking when I was 11 years old and I liked it. That started me on the wrong path.

I began trying anything that made me feel different. I ended up dropping out of school when I was 17. I had a good job and a place to live. I would just work and party all of the time. I thought I had life figured out.

When I was 21, my girlfriend and I had a son, but my addiction was still my number one priority. I was on pain pills, meth, and drinking every day. By the time I was 26, my addiction had cost me the loss of my girlfriend, my son, my job and pretty much everything I had.

Shortly after that, I got a DUI, but that didn't slow me down. After going to prison for a few months, I got out and went back to my addiction and steadily got worse. When I was 28, I got more charges and was on probation for 2 years, so I decided I needed help. I went to rehab for 2 years to complete probation and make my family happy, but after I completed rehab, I came back to Franklin and went back to my addiction again.

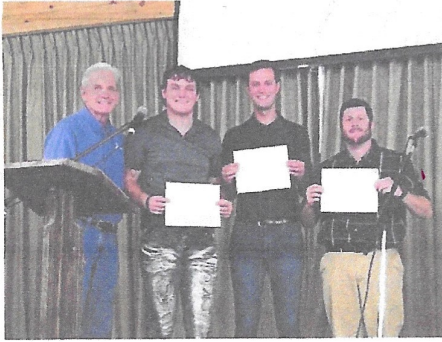
This time it got a lot worse. I became homeless, hopeless and I overdosed more times than I can remember. I was sick of living the way I was, but I really didn't know how to change. I got arrested again and thank God I ended up going back to prison. When I was in prison this time, I decided I was done running from God. I've always known about God. I've just spent my life running from Him.

I surrendered my life to Him but knew when I got out of prison, I would still need help so I came to Men's Challenge of the Smokies. Since I've been here, the Lord has shown me He loves me and He has a purpose and a plan for my life. I can honestly wake up and be thankful I'm alive. Today my family is back in my life again. The Lord never stopped chasing after me. My favorite Bible verse is Psalm 86:13. "For your love for me is very great; You have rescued me from the depths of death".

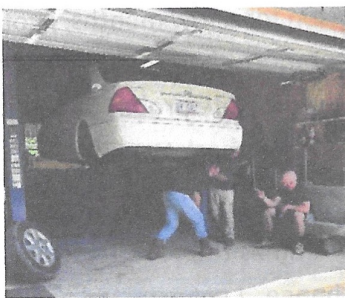
August



CONGRATULATIONS



In July we had three men graduate: Pierceson, Kylar and Jacob. We want to congratulate them for a job well done!



Pictured above are some of our men working in the auto shop, making repairs, and working in the woodshop.

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

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