

JANUARY 2022

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC



## God Allowed Me to Make My Bad Choices

My name is Nick. I'm 26 years old and I'm from Weaverville, NC. I had a good childhood, surrounded by people that loved and nurtured me. I did well in school, but in high school things started going downhill. When I got my driver's license, I began socializing more, going to parties smoking weed and drinking. I never had many friends as a kid and my older brother was in prison until I was around 12. So when I got old enough to go out on my own, I went to the extreme.

I found myself feeling more alone and depressed than ever. I decided to attempt to do something with my life by joining the army. In the army, I was far from home and any accountability or support. After one of my commanding officers committed suicide, I fell into a deep depression. I started having trouble sleeping at night and staying awake in the day, so I started using Meth to keep me awake. When I left the army, I was a full-blown Meth addict. The next 4 years passed in a fog. I lost everything I'd ever worked for and found myself in and out of jail regularly. I became a convicted felon. God allowed me to make my bad choices until I was in a place where He was all I had. That happened Feb.13, 2021, while incarcerated on charges in three counties and two states.

My family sent me a Bible and I started reading it. For the first time in my life, I prayed with a broken heart and told God if He would save me and forgive me, I would do things His way. Through what can only truly be a God-ordered series of events, I was encouraged to apply to Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center and was accepted. While my legal issues are far from over, some have been resolved. I'm reminded of Zechariah 3:4 as Joshua stands before the Lord and is told that he was plucked out of the fire and that God caused his sins to be taken away. I'm so thankful that the Lord plucked me out and cleaned me up. I still have a long way to go, and life is anything but easy, but now I fight from victory. Now I have a hope that I have never known.



# DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



New TC sweatshirts



Christmas dinner



Snowtubing



Gingerbread



Baptism



Helping Dream Center



Deck the halls



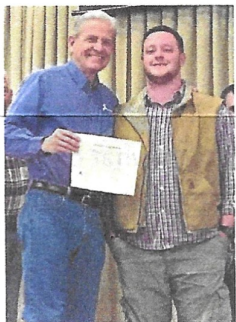
Decorating contest



We want to say thank you to all of those who helped make Christmas merrier for our men. There were those who provided gift bags, sweatshirts with our logo, good things to eat, meals at Asian King and McDonalds, trips snowtubing and to see a movie. Wow! We are so thankful for the thoughtfulness of so many.



## Congratulations to our recent graduates!



Congratulations to Dylan (far left) who graduated in November. Dylan is now working as an intern at Sandhills Teen Challenge. William "Oscar", graduated in December. He will be living in our graduate housing and working locally. We are so proud of both of these men.

### 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 Teen Challenge of the Smokies" and share our page