



Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center

HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY 2023

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC



My name is Matthew. I grew up in Rock Hill, SC. My mom and dad separated when I was about 3 yrs. old. My mom had an addiction while I was growing up so my grandmother raised me.

At 15 yrs. old, I began to smoke and hang out with the wrong crowd. This eventually led me to drinking and drugs. During my twenties, I went to multiple rehabs trying to get sober. I began using pills at the age of 21 and my addiction began to get out of control. The pills led me to crack cocaine and then to meth when I was about 27 yrs. old. Between the age of 21– 27, my life was in complete darkness. I came to a point that I began to cry out to the Lord for help. I felt stuck with no way out of this darkness., but I still knew that Jesus was the way out. I wouldn't quit or lose faith even when there were times I felt like I couldn't make it any further. I was in many situations where I could have been killed, but God was with me in every situation, even in my addiction.

For 3 years I fought to get my life back, trying to follow the Lord and beat my addiction. This is when my addiction was at its worst. Then by a miracle of God, a way was made for me to come to Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center. I began to surrender my life and my will to Him and His will. My mind was almost gone when I got here and God has begun to heal and restore it.

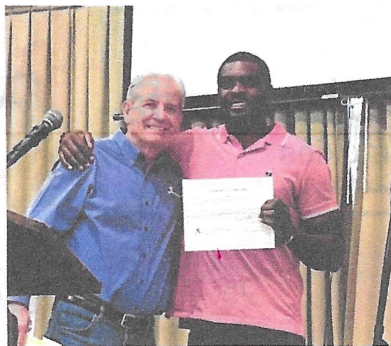
Since being here, I have started building a solid foundation in Christ, which I never had before. I've learned that I can't overcome problems by myself. I need to be a part of the body of Christ in order to overcome and have victory. I am thankful for Jesus making a way for me to come to this program and I am thankful for the people God has placed here to help me grow closer to Him.

My favorite verses in the Bible are Matthew 6:19-21. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also".

Jesus Christ is a treasure that you can't buy. Drugs had a grip on my heart and Jesus wanted my heart. It was a battle for my heart.

PLANS FOR
2023

"For I know what I have planned for you, says the Lord. I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope." Jeremiah 29:11



DyAngelo graduated in December, making our 50th graduate from Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center. He will be living in the Graduate Cabins and working locally. Our next graduation will be Saturday, January 21, 2023, at 10:00 am. We hope you will join us.



We put a new cross at the top of the prayer path. The men took turns carrying it, and driving nails into it. Before we took the new cross up, we talked about Jesus being born to die and then had communion.

**Thank
You**

We want to thank everyone for gifts you gave to our men, making this such a special Christmas for them. They often talk about how they are pleasantly surprised about the tremendous support they feel from this community. We also want to thank all who gave financially at Christmas to this ministry. Only a few of our men are able to pay anything so your financial gifts are very much needed and appreciated.

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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