



## Multiple Surgeries Left Me Addicted to Opiates

My name is John Blaine and I'm 45 years old. I married a God fearing woman who led me to Christ 23 years ago, but at the age of 38 I had multiple surgeries that left me addicted to opiates. I was ashamed of the addiction and gradually fed this monster. I remember feeling guilty about my addiction when I first started. I would take half a pill while working. But soon a half pill became a whole pill, a whole pill became two, four and before I knew it, I was completely numb to guilt taking 30 plus pills a day.

At the time, I felt like I could get anything accomplished in half the time of others. It wasn't long before the perceived positives became negatives and I lost my job of 18 years. This job God had given me, provided everything for my family. I didn't know how to handle this loss. So I went deeper into my addiction, thinking the deeper I went, the sooner I'd hit bottom and be out of the prison I had created. That bottom was still no where in sight and I found myself doctor shopping four or five times weekly and then up to three times daily. My new career became manipulating doctors and nurses for what I now had to have. To supplement my doctor shopping, I would purchase prescriptions from a drug dealer and justify it by telling myself I would only buy from her and no one else. Within three months, I had spent \$48k and lost a second job. I would have enough money to pay my bills but ignore them, making bad decision after bad decision. Finally my addiction had gotten so bad that it negatively affected my marriage and my relationship with my children. So I decided to turn back to God through the avenue of Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center.

Since I've been at Teen Challenge, my relationship with the Lord has been restored. I've also seen my relationship with my wife and children restored. I'm excited to live for the Lord and about what He has planned next. Pastor Mike and Mrs. Betty, through their vision and obedience, have created an oasis for hurting souls to find rest and restoration through the Word of God.

(2 Corinthians 4:8, 9) We have troubles all around us, but we are not defeated. We do not know what to do, but we do not give up the hope of living. We are persecuted, but God does not leave us. We are hurt sometimes, but we are not destroyed.

(2 Corinthians 3:5) Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.



# Closing on the Purchase of Camp Cullasaja



On July 18, 2019, Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center will be closing on the former Camp Cullasaja Camp Ground owned by the North Carolina Assemblies of God. The purchase will be through the North Carolina Assemblies of God loan program. The loan is at 0%, with payments of \$2,000 a month. The property deed will be in our name right away at closing.

Although the sale price is \$1,134,000.00, **they have agreed to match dollar for dollar what we pay on the loan. That means that once we pay \$567,000.00, the property is ours free and clear.** It is our desire to pay the \$567,000.00 off so that we can continue to be free of debt and our money is free to be used to help men gain freedom from addiction. We have already begun to receive donations toward this purchase. **Remember, whatever you contribute will be doubled because it is being matched dollar for dollar.** So \$50 becomes \$100, \$500 becomes \$1000. What a great opportunity to have a permanent home for Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center.

Of course, **we still need your help with our regular giving for operating expenses.** Some have chosen to double their monthly giving and designate the extra portion to the property purchase. We appreciate your help however the Lord would lead you and for all of those who give to this ministry. We could not do what we are doing, and see the fruit that we are seeing, without you.

*Mike and Betty Barres*



## TO MAKE A DONATION:

P.O. BOX 2157, Franklin, NC 28744 /OR GIVE ONLINE at our **website: [www.mtcots.com](http://www.mtcots.com)**

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT US AT: 828-524-2157/[betty@mtcots.com](mailto:betty@mtcots.com) /Thrift Store: 828-586-9966

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