

JULY 2021

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC



JOSHUA

## GOD'S GRACE

I'm 35 years old and from Selma, NC. My childhood was amazing. My parents worked hard, feared God and loved us unconditionally. They truly endeavored to convey to us integrity and Godly principles. No family is perfect, but I honestly had a very exciting and privileged childhood.

Even though slightly mischievous, people would have thought I was doing well. I received my accolades in sports, was very personable with many 'friends', and appeared fulfilled. Sadly, I didn't know who I was, but I knew I was faking it. I felt lost and aimless and that hurt, so I chose to bury my pain and rebel.

That life philosophy quickly ushered me to seeking identity and pleasure in sinful behavior. My drug use began naively, but rapidly escalated to daily use of cocaine, meth, heroin, or whatever I could get my hands on to not feel. Over the next 20 years, my insatiable craving for drugs motivated my life. My sinful choices led me to depths of hopelessness and despair beyond what I ever imagined. With attempted suicides, overdoses, many years in jail or homelessness, I caused anguish to those I loved the most, and worse of all, separation from God.

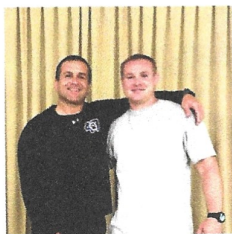
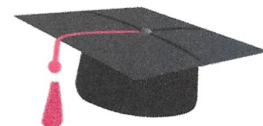
I was in jail when I called home and received the most tragic news I've heard in my life, but it was news that ignited my heart into action. There in that cell I cried out to God to save me and He did. He made a way for me to come to Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center. He rescued me by His grace and I'm learning to seek Him wholeheartedly, to trust that I am who He says I am. My true identity is and always was in Christ Jesus alone. I'm determined to walk by faith in a manner worthy of what He's done for me and to show my thankfulness by living a life sold out for His glory.

Not only has God saved my soul (as if that weren't enough), He has given me mercy. Recently when I went to court, I should have been sentenced to 30 years worth of prison, but instead God showed His grace. He is redeeming every aspect of my life, character, relationships and destiny. Thank you all for being a part of this ministry and thank you Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center for giving us a safe place to seek the Lord, to grow spiritually and to know what it means and looks like to be a disciple of Christ.

Life verse: (Isaiah 43:18,19) "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness".



## CONGRATULATIONS CALEB AND JACOB



Caleb and Jacob have graduated from the 12 month program here. Caleb will be staying in the program as an intern. Jacob will be living in the Graduate Cabins and working locally.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

We were so honored to have received the 2020 Organization of the Year Award by the Franklin Chamber of Commerce. We are thankful for all who serve in this organization - our board, our staff and our many volunteers. We are also thankful for all of the individuals, businesses and churches who support us.



June 8, 2021, marked 10 years that Norma McClure has been the manager of our Thrift Store. Pictured above, Norma was presented with a plaque for her hard work and dedication. Also pictured with her are the Thrift Store staff and our students.

**BALANCE REMAINING- \$ 313,900**

**ORIGINAL BALANCE - \$566,000**



Our prayer goal is to be able to pay this off by Dec. 2022. This will help insure the longevity of this wonderful ministry that God has birthed and grown. If you would like to help us with this goal, we would appreciate gifts of any amount.

### 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