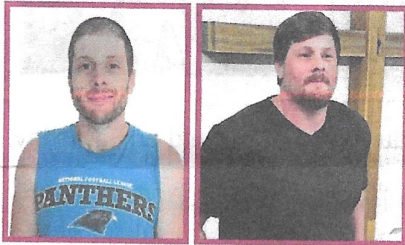


JULY 2023



*The Faith Based Solution to the
Addiction Epidemic*



My name is Jacob. I'm 28 years old and I am from Asheville, NC. My grandfather was a preacher and as I young boy I went to church often. I knew who God was, but I didn't know God personally.

When I was 16 yrs. old, I started smoking marijuana and drinking, just to fit in and have fun with friends. I barely graduated, had to go to summer school and didn't get to graduate with my class. I didn't really care about school or anything at the time. I just wanted to party and have fun.

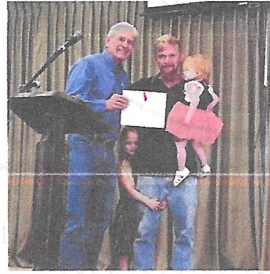
After high school, I started doing construction work. That was when I was introduced to Meth. I started out smoking it, then it turned into IV use. I lost my job and drugs took over my life. I would do whatever it took to get drugs. I ended up going to prison for breaking and entering into the house of a family member. I lost everything and everyone in my life. I had lost my house so I had to move in with my grandmother. When I got out of prison, I had gone to a rehab, but it didn't last long before I left and began doing the same old things. This time it spiraled out of control fast! Then my grandmother died. This is when it was the worst. I felt guilty and shameful for putting her in a position to take care of me and it affected her health badly. After she died, I lived at her house by myself, and was going to lose it because I couldn't pay the bills. I was broken, hopeless and just tired of being sick and tired.

I was sitting on the porch one day, wondering what I was going to do. I knew it wouldn't be long before I was back in prison. My best friend from high school stopped by to see me. I hadn't seen him in years. I told him I didn't know where I was going or what I was going to do. He told me about Men's Challenge of the Smokies. He had graduated from the program and I knew God had changed his life. I told him I'd love to go but I didn't have any money and they probably wouldn't take me. He told me he could get me in if I really wanted to change my life. I applied and a few days later they called and said I could come in the program through a scholarship.

On my third day in the program, I surrendered my life to the Lord. I asked Jesus to forgive my sins, and to come into my life as Lord and Savior. My life has never been the same since. He broke all the strong holds of addiction and set me free. Now I'm a new creation in Christ. I have a new life and hope for the future with Jesus Christ. I'm thankful for the gift of my salvation. I can leave my past in the past because I'm forgiven. I've been set free from my addiction and my sin. Satan has no longer a grip on me. My favorite verse is Psalm 34:6—"This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles."



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Kevin, who graduated on June 17, 2023. Our next graduation will be held on Saturday, July 15, 2023, at 10:am. We appreciate all who come to celebrate this achievement with us.



We want to thank the men's group at Holly Springs Baptist Church who came out to our center recently to have a cook out for our men (above, left). On Father's Day, the men shared in song and testimony at Life Church of Waynesville. The church had a cook out and games afterwards.



MEN'S CHALLENGE OF THE SMOKIES' GARDEN



TO MAKE A DONATION:

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FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT US AT: 828-524-2157/Thrift Store: 828-586-9966

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