



JUNE 2021

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC



A Mighty God of Love and Forgiveness

My name is Corey. I'm 38 years old and have struggled with drugs and alcohol since I was 12. I grew up in a small town in Minnesota, raised by my grandma and mother.

My mom was 16 years old when she had me and my dad wasn't in the picture.

When I was 12, I moved to a much larger town and before the first day of school, I was bit on the lip by a dog and had to start school with a face full of stitches. I had no idea how to fit in, but a family member owned a bar and there I was accepted. I started sneaking booze and smoking pot. Also about that time, a friend took his own life, and drugs went from recreation to medication for me. I didn't care any longer if or where I fit in. I could be in a room full of people and still feel alone.

The drugs and lifestyle got harder trying to fill a God sized void. One night in a black out, I tried to take my own life. At the hospital I heard a voice say, God's not done with you and I pursued it. I ended up at a treatment center. I didn't know God or where to start. Someone told me to start with the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-11), where it says, "Finally be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so you can take a stand against the devil's schemes." I didn't understand it but God helped me through a pastor at a church I went to the next day. He said, "Come up front little children and I'm going to show you how to put on the full armor of God. The spirit of God filled me and hit me like lightning. I knew I wasn't alone and God had me. As I sought God, He restored so much in my life He blessed me more than I deserved. I was sober and chasing after God with all I had. During that time He blessed me with a wife who always points me to God and His calling on my life.

I got scared, wrapped up in shame, guilt and unforgiveness towards myself and went back to the bottle. If you want to run, God will let you. My wife told me one night, I might as well be a widow. Your addiction is the only thing you love. I knew right then I needed God back in my life.

He wasn't going to let me keep running So I came to Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center to rebuild my relationship with God. He welcomed me back with open arms just like the men at Teen Challenge. I'm proud to say I serve a mighty God of love and forgiveness.

I use to tell my God about how big my mountains were. Now I tell my mountains how big my God is.



CONGRATULATIONS JACOB

We are so proud of Jacob for graduating from this 12 month program. He will be living in the Graduate Cabins and will be working for someone in the area.

Our next graduation will be held on Saturday, June 12, 2021, at 10:00 am. We would like to invite you to come and show your support to our graduates.

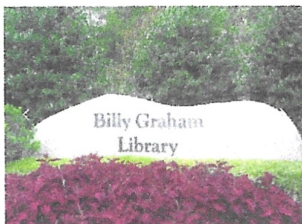
BALANCE REMAINING- \$314,000



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.

We are so thankful for those who have given toward paying off the mortgage on the center. If you would like to help us with this goal, we would appreciate gifts of any amount.



Our men were gifted with tickets to the Billy Graham Library recently in Charlotte, NC. It is a 40,000sq. ft. complex that follows the story of his life. They were able to experience the showcase of numerous presentations, pictures, music and voices from throughout Graham's ministry.

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

Like us on Facebook "Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies" and share our page