



March 2024



The Faith Based Solution to the
Addiction Epidemic



The Lord wants me to be happy and live a fulfilling life

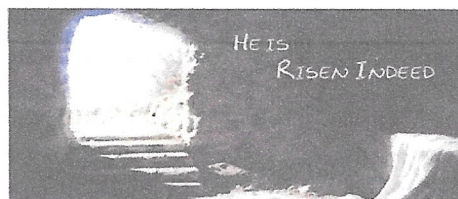
My name is Alen. I am 35 years old and grew up in Sylvia, NC. I had a pretty good childhood growing up. However, my parents split up when I was young, so I got moved back and forth. I still did very well in school despite all of this.

When I was around 12 years old, I lost my grandmother to cancer. This was very tough because I had spent a lot of my childhood with her. Not long after this, around the age of 13, I began to experiment with smoking pot on occasions. In high school, I got away from drugs. I ran track and cross country. I was involved in clubs and graduated with a 3.6 GPA. I was supposed to go to college but I started working in restaurants. I got hooked on the quick money waiting tables. I then got introduced to alcohol, pain pills, Xanax and whatever else was around.

I moved to Asheville, NC trying to escape my addiction, however, it continued and got worse falling into heroin, fentanyl and cocaine use. While in this darkness, I lost my cousin to an overdose. Being close to him, I went further into my addiction. I lost jobs and I was stealing to support the drug habits. This caused me to go in and out of prison three times. Getting out of jail and going straight into using led me to an overdose. This overdose put me in the hospital. The first nine days of this, I had no brain activity. I was on life support and the doctors had started talking about pulling the plug. Thanks to God's grace, prayers of family, many churches and others, a miracle happened. I came back to life!

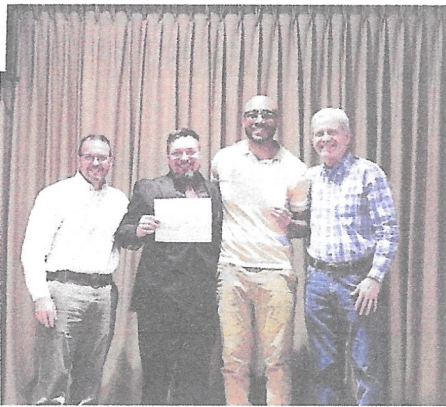
After recovering from this, my family suggested Men's Challenge of the Smokies and shortly after, I entered the program. Since being here, I have surrendered to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I have been baptized. I believe God wants me to be happy and live a fulfilling life. I am so thankful for the program, staff, my brothers here and my family.

My favorite verse right now is Proverbs 3:5-6—"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight."

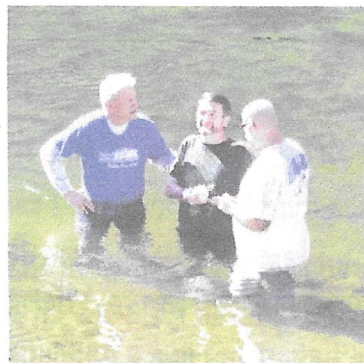




We wish to express honor and offer gratitude to Betty Barres upon her retirement from Men's Challenge of the Smokies as Lead Administrative Assistant. Betty has labored tirelessly alongside Pastor Mike since the ministry's founding approximately ten years ago. "Miss Betty", we thank you and we honor you for all you have done to see men's lives set free from the destructive consequences of addiction.



Congratulations to Sean and Dustin on their graduation this past month. Our next graduation will be Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 10:00am.



Two more baptized. Praise the Lord!

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 Challenge of the Smokies" and share our page