



Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center



MAY 2022

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC



David Quinones

I Didn't Know Myself Anymore

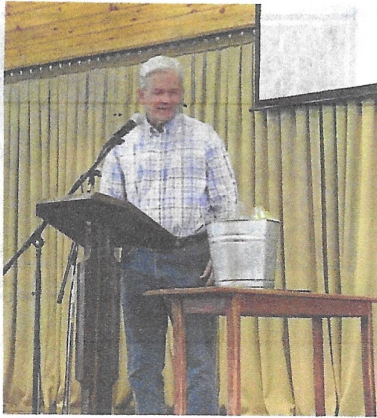
I was raised by my parents who did their best to keep me involved in the church. I was homeschooled and most of my friends and influences were in the church. I was a shy kid and it was always hard for me to express myself.

As I got older, I started attending public school and wanted to fit in. As time went by, my grades started slipping. I started smoking weed after 8th grade. I wanted to do right but I also wanted to be accepted. I started playing football, joined ROTC and started going to parties where I got drunk, smoked weed and was introduced to cocaine. I liked how I could open up and be bold when I was high.

I ended up dropping out of school my senior year and joined the Job Corp. I got my GED and was learning carpentry, but was kicked out after 7 month for smoking weed. Later, I went into the Army Reserves where I was finally proud and felt accomplished. That was short-lived. I fell back into the party lifestyle and chasing women. I began abusing pain medication which evolved into heroine IV use and crack cocaine. I didn't know myself anymore. I was a thief, stealing even from my family and borrowing money that I couldn't pay back. Depression, anxiety, bitterness and suicidal thoughts consumed my mind. I went to the VA and got off drugs. I even started going back to church, but got into a toxic relationship and relapsed. I was in and out of treatment for the next couple of years. I was a mess emotionally. I couldn't eat or sleep, detoxing from medications.

One night as I was trying to listen to worship music, I began to pray and ask God to take over. I said the words, "I am ready". I accepted that I needed to surrender fully. I decided to look into going to Adult & Teen Challenge. I was going to attend a program in New Jersey when Pastor Mike called me back and prayed with me. A few days later, I was accepted into the program at Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center. As the weeks went by, the Lord was showing me just how much I needed Him and He's always been there. The program has helped me grow with God and as a man. I'm so thankful for m family and friends who stuck by me and never stopped praying for me. I'm thankful for the program and all of the staff, but must importantly for the blood of Jesus. (Isaiah 40:31) "They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."





Mike Barres, Exec. Director

MORTGAGE BURNING

On April 16, 2022, Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies celebrated the paying off of the owner financing on the buildings and property with a mortgage burning. Special guest speakers attending were David Crabtree, Assistant Superintendent of the NC Assemblies of God (representing former owners of the center) and NC State Senator, Kevin Corbin. Senator Corbin was able to get a grant that helped pay off the mortgage. We deeply appreciate everyone who gave to make the payoff of this mortgage possible.



David Crabtree



Senator Kevin Corbin



CONGRATUALATIONS



Congratulations to Nick on his graduation last month. Nick is staying on at Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center as an intern.

Our next graduation will be held on Saturday, May 21, at 10:00am. We hope you will join us.

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

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