



“I know that no matter what my future holds, God will be there with me.”



My name is Nathan. I am 39 years old and I am from Murphy, NC. I was raised in a Christian home with very loving parents. I have three older brothers, who my parents always told me I loved very much. All jokes aside, I have an amazing family who still love and support me despite my best efforts to push them away. I was an honor student that was also blessed with some athletic ability. The combination of which lead me to Mars Hill College, where I played football and got a degree in education.

I have battled an opioid addiction that has been more on than off for about the last 13 years. The worst point in my addiction came when I lost my fiancé, Kasey, who was eight and a half months pregnant with our son PJ, to pre-eclampsia. Three days later, I held my son for the first time just before he was removed from life support. I allowed the darkness to completely swallow me. I set out on a personal mission to die in any way possible, short of suicide. I believed in God but I also blamed him. I was angry with him and honestly felt like if he had any emotion toward me, it had to be contempt.

Thankfully, almost a year later still wallowing in darkness, he came to me in a jail cell not far from here and saved me. This should be the point in the story where everything turns on a dime, but that's just not the reality of my story. Despite feeling the Spirit within me pulling me in a new direction, I did nothing to renew my mind and feed that now, new spirit. It wasn't long before I was doing everything in my power to hide myself behind a mask of drugs again. I wound up right back in the same old jail with brand new charges. Because of my actions, I am now facing the possibility of a very lengthy prison sentence. I'm not saying any of this looking for pity but rather to illustrate how amazing God is that he still came looking for me, hopeless, useless and someone that certainly appears to have no future. He brought me to Men's Challenge where I have finally been able to stop running and to find peace and hope I had gave up on. He has given me a new heart and a desire to share his love with anyone I can, by any means I can. I know that no matter what my future holds, God will be there with me and if I can just get out of his way, amazing things can happen. I can't wait for the day I meet my redeemer. I can't wait to see Kasey again and I can't wait to meet my son but, until that day, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21



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MEN'S CHALLENGE HAPPENINGS

From the Executive Director's Desk

Jeremiah 18 details the account of God instructing Jeremiah to go to a potter's house to receive a "word" concerning His people. Jeremiah witnessed a potter begin the process of making a piece of pottery, but there was a small twig or pebble mixed in the clay which caused the "being-formed" vessel to be flawed and imperfect. The potter did not throw the clay away, by "made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it" (vs. 4). First, like Israel, we are in the hands of the Lord although we may have flaws in our lives that are being worked on. Second, God would rather redeem flawed people than reject them. God doesn't view people as something to be discarded; He would rather save than condemn. Third, God does not simply accept our flaws, but He calls us to actively submit ourselves into His hands as we are being "conformed to the image of His dear son" (Rom. 8:29). As we submit to the Master Potter as His disciples, allowing Him to mold us and make us through His word and by His Spirit, we will grow in Christlikeness and manifest the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23). He is the potter, and we are the clay.



Congratulations to Alen on his graduation in April. We are grateful that he is staying on as an intern.

We rejoice for two more souls being born again while in the program and baptized in water. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." 2 Cor. 5:17



MEN'S CHALLENGE GRADUATION
Saturday, May 18th @10am

336 LIVING HOPE WAY
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED
ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

SAVE THE DATE

TO MAKE A DONATION:

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