



Dan

## **I Was Always Searching for Fulfillment**

I'm 36 years old and I grew up in California. I've lived in Murphy, NC for the last 5 years. Growing up I was never involved in church. Neither of my parents were religious. I knew the basics of Jesus but I didn't know what he had done and what he would do for me.

My life of addiction started early with food, video games, and TV. I didn't really know what moderation was and I felt comfort in those things. My parents were very loving but it never felt like enough. I was always searching for fulfillment. I craved more attention -good or bad. It didn't really matter to me. I started to lie, steal and cheat.

When I was in high school, my parents divorced, causing me to feel like I had an even larger void to fill. I started going to parties and drinking and smoking pot. It made me feel accepted and like I had more friends. All it did was lead to stronger drugs and more drinking. It never led to any legal trouble and it made me feel good at the time, so I kept on doing it. When I was 20 I moved to Reno, which for a person who doesn't understand moderation, was a big mistake. I started gambling and drinking more and that led to a depression.

In my late 20s, I had surgery and developed an addiction to pain killers. I didn't feel like it was a problem because I was getting them from a doctor, but that was just a lie from the devil. While on them, I started to excel at all things the world thinks are good. I was getting promoted at work, making good money, able to buy lots of things. In the end, none of that really mattered. Right before leaving for a work trip, my drugs were cut off by my doctor because I had been doctor shopping to get more pain killers. I went on the trip and started to go through withdrawals. I ended up breaking into hotel rooms looking for anything that could help me. I got caught and spent 6 months in a county jail.

When I got out, I had lost my job, home, and felt like my family had written me off. I went back to Reno to gather my stuff. I thought if I moved across the country I would be fine because I didn't know anyone I could buy drugs from. But I didn't work on the real issue so I started drinking a lot. I drank when I woke up, I'd drink at work, I'd drink before going to bed, I'd drink anything to numb the pain of emptiness I felt.

I'd started going to church with my dad but it was just to keep him off my back. Finally after losing another job due to drinking, I took my dad and pastor's advice that I needed real help and came here to Teen Challenge to get the help I really needed. Pastor Mike and the staff here have helped me to open my eyes to the fact that I can't overcome my addictions and emptiness on my own. I needed to develop a relationship with Christ and lean on him because he is always there for us in our times of need and hurt. I can't thank the community enough for all you do to support us to overcome our problems.





## SEPTEMBER GRADUATION

Join us in celebration for Justin's graduation!

Saturday, September 7

3:00pm

At Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center

336 AG Camp Rd., Franklin, NC

RSVP appreciated - 828-524-2157



**SPECIAL COOKOUT FUND RAISING EVENT** for Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center at

**BILO** on Highland's Rd. from Noon to 3:00pm, Saturday, September 7.



**\$6,160.00**

**received so far  
to pay off loan!**

### Look For Exciting News

### Coming Your Way Soon!



As you know, the Lord has made it possible for us to purchase this property with an owner financed loan at a dollar for dollar match. This turns the purchase of \$1,133,000 into \$566,500.

We have had **ANOTHER MATCHING CHALLENGE** that we will be sharing with you by letter this month!

Thank you for all of those who have been giving toward paying off the mortgage.

\* A reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center. Don't forget to add [bbarres@dnet.net](mailto:bbarres@dnet.net) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!



#### TO MAKE A DONATION:

P.O. BOX 2157, Franklin, NC 28744 /OR GIVE ONLINE at our **website: [www.mtcots.com](http://www.mtcots.com)**

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT US AT: 828-524-2157/[betty@mtcots.com](mailto:betty@mtcots.com) /Thrift Store: 828-586-9966

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