

SEPTEMBER 2021

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC



GOD HAD NEVER LEFT ME

My name is Dylan. I'm from Durham, NC and I'm 24 years old. I grew up with great parents who raised me in church and always tried their best. Growing up, I played sports year round. I grew up riding dirt bikes, hunting and fishing with my dad. Football was my passion. I started playing at 4 yrs. old and played through my senior year of high school.

I started smoking weed in the 8th grade every now and then. When I got to high school it became an every day thing. Shortly after that, I began experimenting with Xanax and Cocaine along with drinking. Most of this was at parties, but I never saw anything wrong with it. When I was about 20, I got hit by a car on my motorcycle which resulted in me having my left knee reconstructed. I was prescribed Percocet. I didn't realize it at the time, but that was the start to my opioid addiction. On 3/31/19, I was in a head on car accident that changed my life forever. I shattered both knees, compound fractured my left femur (it actually came out through my pants). I broke 6 ribs, collapsed my right lung and punctured my spleen. I stayed in the hospital almost a month and this is when my opioid addiction took off. The only way I knew how to deal with pain or my emotions was to get high. After I was taken off the pain medicine, I started to buy them on the street and it became so expensive, I turned to heroine. This led to 7 overdoses and on 10/3/20, I was arrested for trafficking heroin.

I thought my life was over. One day while sitting in my cell, the chaplain came in and told me not to give up because God was not done with me. That night in my cell I cried out to God and asked for forgiveness. I prayed and asked Jesus to come back into my life. I realized through all of the years, He had never left me. I was still facing 28 years in prison, but the chaplain told me God's got a plan. A few days later, God really showed me that I could trust Him. The charges were reduced and I was given time served with a 12 month probation term. When I came home, I immediately knew I was going to a discipleship program. Since I've been at Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center, my family trusts and supports me again. I've learned how to take responsibility for the things I've done and not run when things get hard. I've learned how to deal with conflict without violence. Most importantly, I've learned what it means to have a relationship with Christ. After all God's done for me, I feel a calling to help others that have had the same struggles. My favorite verse is Isaiah 43:2, I will be with you when you pass through the water...

NEW BALANCE—
\$117,561

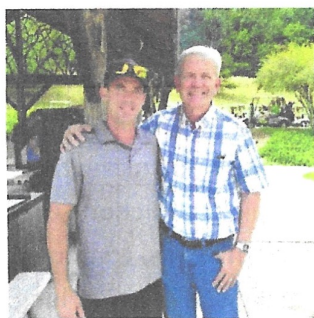
ORIGINAL BALANCE - \$566,000



Wow look what the Lord has done!

This past month we have come \$91,339.00 closer to paying off our mortgage debt! Thank you to all who are coming along side of us to see this accomplished. If you would like to help us with this goal, we would appreciate gifts of any amount.

A big THANK YOU to Countryside Chevrolet for putting on the First Annual Golf Tournament benefitting Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center. The tournament, which was sold out, was held at Mill Creek Country Club here in Franklin, NC. Thank you also to all of the area businesses who supported this fundraiser and to all who participated.



UPCOMING GRADUATION

September 18, 2021 at 10:00.am

336 Living Hope Way, Franklin, NC

Come help us celebrate and show your support

**Please wear a mask until you are seated and as you leave.*



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