



To all the praying mothers, there is hope and prayers do get answered.

My name is Jerry. I am 53 and grew up around Philadelphia. My mom was from a family of eight kids, so I grew up in a large, loving family that was very close. I was the oldest of three kids. My mom stayed home to take care of us and the household while my dad was working all the time providing for his family. Around the age of fourteen, I was introduced to marijuana and alcohol, at first, to fit in. Then I started hanging out with an older crowd and trying harder drugs; when I tried heroin for the first time. By sixteen, I was getting in trouble all of the time, kicked out of school and left home. Being on my own at a young age led only to bad choices. When I turned eighteen, I was hooked on heroin, using daily. I had this emptiness inside, where I felt like something was missing and I searched in all the wrong places. It got to where I wasn't happy any longer nor was I comfortable in my own skin. The loneliness and despair got to where I stayed intoxicated to become comfortable and numb, allowing me to avoid my feelings. This vicious cycle spiraled downward with more destruction lasting thirty-five plus years. These years landed me in jail several times, sent me to prison twice, failed marriages and lost all my possessions several times over. For a while, near the end, I didn't care if I made it another day and I was at rock bottom. Thanks to God's mercy and protection, I survived the turmoil. More so, thank God for my praying mother that never gave up. To all the praying mothers, there is hope and prayers do get answered. I'm proof of that by standing here sharing my testimony. Last Fall I knew I needed a real change and checked into a detox that lasted for three weeks. This was my fourth attempt at getting sober and after two weeks, when my head started to clear, I wasn't sure how to make this time around count. Desperate, I dropped to my knees to reach out to God for some kind of direction. I was reminded of how my mom was always telling me she was praying for me. Also, I was reminded of how she tried several times talking to me about Adult/Teen Challenge. I found Men's Challenge of the Smokies. Within thirty-six hours from the first call, I had applied online, had a phone intake interview, and was in a cab on the way to Franklin, NC from Asheville. I am so blessed to be a part of this one year discipleship program where everything centers around Jesus Christ and being taught how to have a close relationship with the Lord strengthens me each and every day. Today, I am closer to the Lord than I've ever been and there's been transformation in my life in just seven months. I have joy, happiness and a sense of overall peace like I don't remember happening. I've experienced love like never before, a true love, God's Love!

"God heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3



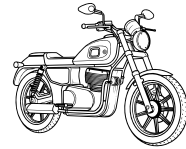
Scan to follow us on Facebook

MEN'S CHALLENGE HAPPENINGS

Save the Dates



Our next graduation will be **Saturday, September 21st at 10am.** Everyone is invited to attend.



Hunter's Mountain Ride

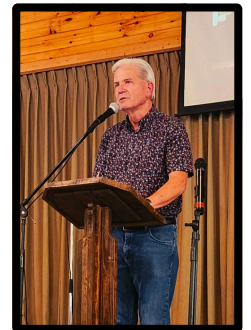
Rev up those engines! It's time to enjoy a ride through God's country for a GREAT cause. On October 5, 2024, we are riding the roads that Hunter Curtis loved to ride. All proceeds raised from this event will be donated to Men's Challenge of the Smokies to assist individuals who are attending the program. You can request an event form by emailing huntersmtnride@gmail.com.



Congratulations to Nathan on his graduation in August.

— HAPPY — Retirement

We wish to express honor and gratitude to Mike Barres upon his retirement from Men's Challenge of the Smokies. Pastor Mike received the vision from the Lord for this life changing ministry, rolled up his sleeves, and put in the hard work of bringing the vision to reality. Lives will be changed today and in the future because of your labor. Thank you Pastor Mike and job well done!



Holly Springs Baptist Church



Bryson City Church of God

Thankful for the recent opportunity to share testimonies and worship with these wonderful congregations.

TO MAKE A DONATION:

PO Box 2157, Franklin, NC 28744 or ONLINE at our website: www.livinghopeway.com

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT US AT: 828-524-2157 Thrift Store: 828-586-9966



Follow us @menschallengeofthesmokies #menschallengeofthesmokies

