



# HAPPY Valentine's Day



**MEN'S CHALLENGE CONNECTION**

**FEBRUARY 2025**



*Since being here, the Lord has shown me that on my own strength, nothing will ever satisfy. Without him, it is nothing more than “chasing the wind”.*

My name is Hayden. I am 30 years old and I am from Atlanta, GA. I grew up in an amazing home with three older brothers and a mom and dad who loved me dearly. My childhood was nothing short of the American dream. My mom and dad worked very hard to provide for us, a lot of things they didn't even have growing up. My parents made it a point to raise my brothers and I in church. If we were going to live in their home, we were expected to be in church every Sunday, that's just the way it was. Mom and dad set a great example of what it looked like to be followers of Christ. We were raised to be Christ-like in all that we did.

However, I chose to go a different route when I got to high school. This is when I started smoking weed and partying, all because I wanted to do my own thing; I was hell bent on being rebellious. Several years of this would lead to me going to my first rehab at the age of twenty after my first year of college at the University of Georgia. After working for a year, I decided to get re-enrolled in school. I graduated in December of 2019. By May of 2020, I was able to land my first “big boy job” and even purchased my first home. In September of that same year, I had a pretty serious neck injury that would lead me to being prescribed an opioid pain medication called oxycodone. After taking this medication for six months and being cut off by the doctor, I realized that I was severely physically addicted to it. This would lead to me searching for oxycodone on the street and would eventually lead to my three and a half year addiction of heroin and fentanyl. My rock bottom would lead me into bouts of overdoses, psychosis, and eventually lead me to being homeless.

After burning every bridge and leaving myself with no other options, I had to make one last ditch effort to get help. I broke down in a stairwell of a hotel that I had been sleeping in and called my brother. He would help me get checked into a detox center where I would spend nine days safely getting off of all of the drugs in my system. A few days after being there, I realized if I was going to be serious about getting sober and changing my life, I was going to need some long term care. This is when my brother would remind me of a place called Men's Challenge. A place he had been trying to get me to go for almost a year. I took the leap of faith and told them that I would go. They were shocked by my decision and agreed to help me get here.

Since being here, the Lord has shown me that on my own strength, nothing will ever satisfy. No matter what I am able to do on my own strength, I will never find purpose in that. Without him, it is nothing more than “chasing the wind”. Now I have hope and a future that I find so much peace and purpose in. Recently I have been struggling with worry, doubt and fear. The Lord is showing me that as long as I hold up my end of the bargain, I can take these things to him and I can trust and have faith for he is working all things out for my good. I am most thankful for my family and all of the people who have stuck by my side. I am thankful for my relationship with my Lord and Savior.

*“Be careful for nothing: but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7*



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# MEN'S CHALLENGE HAPPENINGS



**Congratulations to Justin on his graduation in January.**

## Save the Date



**Our next graduation:  
Saturday, March 15th 10am  
336 Living Hope Way  
Reception immediately following  
Everyone is invited to attend**



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



*Another productive "Mission's Monday" with the men serving a local church in the Swannanoa community. We were able to help rearrange supplies being distributed to the community for storm relief. Also, we were able to install cabinets in the downstairs. The men always express a positive attitude when it comes to serving others!*

**Monday, March 31st 6pm**  
DISCOVER CHURCH

# Decade of HOPE

Gala

A Fundraiser for Men's Challenge of the Smokies

For more info



### TO MAKE A DONATION:

PO Box 2157, Franklin, NC 28744 or ONLINE at our website: [www.livinghopeway.com](http://www.livinghopeway.com)



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

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