



BILL HALLUM'S STORY

As told by his Nana-Bonnie Cady

Bill Hallum was a happy person from Shelbyville, Tennessee. He was kind, considerate, loving and always made others feel good about themselves. His smile was contagious from a young age and could light up a whole room. All his life he was always active doing just about everything- skipping rocks, hunting toads, baseball, basketball, football, hunting, fishing, water skiing, swimming, running, golfing. He was on the inaugural golf team at Liberty School and all 4 years at Shelbyville Central High. He was always a top scorer. He was also on the wrestling team a couple of years at SCHS.

He was very smart making mostly A's. He graduated from Shelbyville Central High School 9th in a class of 366. He maintained a 3.5 GPA at University of Alabama -Huntsville. He belonged to the fraternity Alpha Tau Omega and was very active in their functions. They do a lot of

community service. 75 of his fraternity came from Huntsville, AL for his visitation and back the next day for his service.

He had a lot of friends and was a people pleaser. He received much praise and love from them at his memorial service. The preacher's wife said she had never seen so much love and devotion from someone's friends at that age. I had 5-6 friends tell me that Bill was their best friend. Several of his friends said, "Bill was always so helpful".

He had a very disciplined work ethic. He mowed and weed-eated for me. He painted my lobby, cleaned my floors, split and brought in firewood, changed my lightbulbs, and did whatever I asked him to do. He also had numerous jobs while he was in college. He climbed cell phone towers and ran large farm equipment for a friend. He did Door Dash and worked with a restoration company while attending college.

Unfortunately, Bill was very curious about everything. Bill tried marijuana with one of his friends at as a teenager in junior high school. That was the gateway to trying other types of drugs. Bill admitted on January 1, 2022, to his immediate family that he had become addicted to M-30 pills laced with fentanyl. Bill did not realize that the pills had fentanyl in them when his friend first got him to try them. If you google M-30, it says "Drug: Oxycodone Hydrochloride. Strength: 30mg. He had been using these pills for 6 months and couldn't quit on his own. He said he wished he had NEVER tried them. He needed HELP.

Bill was immediately checked into rehab on January 3, 2022, and completed three weeks. (An item of note is that insurance only covered three weeks of rehab services when, much more is needed.) After Bill was released from rehab, he went to live with his older brother Bobby and Bobby's wife Courtney in Huntsville, while he was attending the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Bobby and Courtney thought it was better than being alone in an apartment. He continued his rehab

through an Intensive Outpatient Therapy program associated with his rehab facility. In one month's time, Bill was able to catch up on his schoolwork and we all thought he was doing really well.

When he came from rehab, he explained to me exactly how fentanyl works, why it is so addictive, it makes you feel like you have to have it and how it stays in your brain for so long. He said, "Nana, you don't really understand how hard it is", and I did not understand at that time.

I feel like if I had understood more about addiction, I would have been better equipped for helping him. I have educated myself since then so that I can help others.

He came home to Shelbyville on Friday 25, 2022 for the weekend and went out to a bar in Murfreesboro with the friend who he had been using with. He came home in the wee hours and his mother didn't bother him until Saturday afternoon. When she went in his room, she found him dead in his bed. It was a fentanyl overdose. This was a devastating blow to her and the rest of the family.

During the Holocaust in Auschwitz, Germany, a group of Rabbis put God on trial. They charged him with crimes against his own creation. It was a real trial. They had witnesses and presented evidence, it lasted for several nights and at the end of the trial they found God guilty. And do you know what they did then? They Prayed.

This is a good example of Theodicy. Even though God lets bad things happen to good people, we can still put our faith and trust in him because the story is not over. And he is still writing Bill's story.

When Bill first died, I was so angry and upset with God. I had prayed so hard for Bill since the time of his admission asking God to remove his addiction. Bill was always close to me. He was four when Sarah his sister was born. He lived with me for eight months after she was born

because he didn't want to hear her cry. I have always known that God has been there for me in so many instances. Why did he have to just snatch Bill out of our arms? I always try to be a loving and faithful servant. WHY? WHY? WHY? I now realize that God did answer my prayer to remove Bill's addiction. It just was not the way I wanted. When God answers our prayers, he knows a lot more than we know and he chooses the best way. Then God showed me that he had another assignment for me. God, I said, "I am almost 85" and God said "I don't have a retirement plan ". After much prayer and sleepless nights (God would wake me at 2-3am and talk to me) I know that I cannot bring Bill back, but I feel that God wants me try to prevent other families from going through this kind of trauma. Bill's newfound goal from going to rehab was to help others who are combatting addiction. With the help of Bobby and Courtney, we have formed a nonprofit (thus perpetuating Bill's legacy) called Drug Rescue, to Educate, Empower and Heal

MISSION

EDUCATE: PEOPLE about drugs and addiction. How to talk to their kids about drugs and the consequences. KIDS about the danger of DRUGS and the consequences. How to say NO to their peers when asked to try drugs. **EMPOWER:** People to STAND UP and SPEAK OUT. Report drug activity. [dea.gov](https://www.dea.gov), (you can remain anonymous). Kids to say NO **HEAL:** Help find the best rehab and support for those seeking to escape ADDICTION.

Basically, our Mission is to reduce the DEMAND for Drugs

We want to shine the light on drugs. If you go in a dark room and turn on the light the darkness goes away. It is OK to say my child has a drug problem the same as saying they have cancer or diabetes.

Several facts

1. Addiction is a mental illness that lives in the brain stem: the same brain stem that serves a critical role in regulating certain involuntary actions of the body including heartbeat and breathing. Addicts feel they need their drug of choice the same way they feel they need to breathe. The 2 biggest factors that make an addict are (1) genetic and (2) childhood trauma. Our society treats addiction as a moral issue. Addiction is NOT A MORAL PROBLEM. Addiction genetic predisposition is over 50%. Addiction is a disease, much like diabetes it must be monitored every day for the rest of life. **An addict doesn't control his drug use, His use controls him.** Addiction has many forms. How many have a cellphone? How many people always have their cellphones with them?
2. Fentanyl is the most powerful opioid, 50 times more powerful than heroin, and is flooding our area from Mexico. The amount to kill is like a few grains of sand. One pill can kill. The number one killer of Americans aged 18-45 is fentanyl. There were 79,000 overdose deaths in 2021. There were 96,700 in 2022. There is estimated to be 107,000 in 2023. It can take up to 24 months to get impulses out of brain after stopping taking. 50% of teenagers have used a drug at least once. Most people are vaguely aware of what fentanyl is, but it's hard to overstate just how lethal it is compared to other drugs- and how easy it is to accidentally consume it. Ref-NCDAS, DEA
3. PEER PRESSURE for our youth is the greatest influence. And I might add Curiosity.

I am asking you to join us in this fight. We can make a difference. Did you know that the door by which the Texas shooter gained access was

not locked? We have left doors open and unlocked by which the enemy has gained access to our children. Access to fill their minds with anxiety, fear, lies, hate, lust, drugs, pornography, and pride, thru social media and screens. We must put down our own devices and SHUT THE DOOR and spend one-on-one time with our kids. We can't sit back and just pray asking God to change things. We need to look into their eyes and speak truth to their hearts.

James 2:15-17 "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead."

1 John 3:18: Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth"

For example, suppose the Good Samaritan had just looked at the man on the road to Jericho and said; "Man, I am so sorry, Hope you get better, I will pray for you". Would that have helped the man?

God could have just killed Goliath because David prayed about it, but he used David to overcome his fear and do what God wanted him to do.

Let us humble ourselves and actually SERVE and HELP those who are perishing. Do not Judge but offer guidance and discipline. When you see a falling star, do you make a wish. When you see a fallen person make a wish or prayer that they will recover and offer encouragement. It's a spiritual battle. Good versus evil.

There is only ONE that can wipe out the drug problem and that is God. But God uses humans as his instruments. He gave us the

job to seek and save the lost. We must tell others about Jesus. That he loves them and that we love them no matter what they have done.

Don't worry about what other people think. Instead worry about standing before The Judgment Seat of God. How many will talk to just one person this coming week?

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