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HOPE OF GLORY

My name is Joe and I'm 23 years old. My testimony is all about the Grace, Love and Power of my Father in Heaven. When I totally surrendered to Jesus, all the chains that entangled me were released and I found freedom in Christ. I was addicted to every hard drug known to man and then some, constantly trying to fill the void of emptiness and despair in my soul. I went to 12 secular rehab programs and they told me I would be a drug addict for the rest of my life and that I had 2% chance of ever having a full recovery.

I was in and out of jail and psych wards, each time losing more hope that i was ever getting better. I decided to try Teen Challenge. When I walked through the front door on January 2, 2016, I was told 2 Corinthians 5:17, that in Christ, I would be a new creation. They told me Jesus could give me a totally new life and at that moment, I was filled with hope.

After completing the program as a student, I am now working as an intern for Teen Challenge, helping other men overcome the obstacles in their process of healing. Today, I stand in the sonship that Jesus Christ has given me, forgetting what is behind and pursuing the Hope of Glory.



JOE NORTH CENTRAL

DAVID WABASH VALLEY



UNASHAMED

From the time I was 12, I was drinking and getting "high". My grandpa used to be a preacher but that just meant that Satan had painted a big target on my families back. My stepdad introduced me to drugs and eventually when he got arrested, I started making the drugs myself. In my addiction I found myself in jail with an out of state warrent.

I remember telling my family that I'm not going to a Christian program. God didn't give up though, He finally softened my heart and to the idea of Teen Challenge. Next, I had to have two different states agree that teen Challenge was the place for me. God touched their hearts. They released me after 2 weeks to report to WVTC. So, here I am thinking I'm about to go to some place and then running away, but I ended up loving TC. Within the first month, I learned how to talk to Jesus and within 3 months, i was completely delivered from the urge to use anymore. Now, God has been guiding me to help others, and I hope to stay and do an internship with TC after graduation and help others as much as the staff has helped me.

The verse I stand on is Romans 1:16, "For I am unashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God to salvation first for the Jew and then the Gentile". I stand on this verse because I truly believe that if I became ashamed of Christ, then everything else is meaningless.

**LINDSEY
GRACE HOUSE**



My name is Lindsey, I am 31 years old, from Greencastle, Indiana. My journey at Grace House began on October 28, 2016. I grew up in a very loving family. My parents got divorced when I was 6, but always maintained an amicable relationship. I grew up going to church, but never really developed a relationship with God.

I struggled with depression and low self-esteem in my early teens and began using alcohol at age 15. Alcohol became a crutch in my life from that point on, it was my escape of reality and put me on a path of destruction. In college I continued to drink heavily, I was the "party" girl that everyone loved to be around, and alcohol became a part of my identity. I graduated college, got a "real" job, but I couldn't give up my drinking. When I married my husband in 2014 I thought everything would get better and I could stop drinking, but instead I got progressively worse. Shortly after we got married, I lost my first job which I thought would have been rock bottom for me, but it wasn't. I continued on this downward spiral for the following year. I was taking medications to counter the effects alcohol was having on my body. I was hospitalized over 7 times due to drinking, the Doctor's said I was killing myself and I could feel my body deteriorating, but still I continued drinking. The insanity of addiction is indescribable.

Finally my family sat down with me and told me about Grace House. I knew I could not overcome my alcoholism on my own, I was completely ready to surrender. Now I know that God was just waiting for me to ask Him for help and to walk in his light. It's like I was trying to fill a void in my life with alcohol, and I finally figured out God was the missing component. God is amazing. I have only been at Grace House for less than 4 months, and the restoration God has already done in my family is incredible. I feel a peace and joy that I have never experienced before in my life. I am healing emotionally and physically. I know I still have a long way to go through the program, but I am already amazed by God's unconditional love for me. Grace House has allowed me to open up a new chapter in my life that I did not think was possible. I love who I am in Christ and look forward to a prosperous future.

**RUTH
CITC DEVELOPEMENT COORDINATOR**



Ruth accepted the Developmental Coordinator position where she will be leading the Stay Sharp program as well as assisting in other areas. Ruth was a live in staff for CITC from 2002 to 2006. She moved back to North Carolina. In 2009 Ruth moved to Arkansas where she was married and raising twins. During this time the Pastor of their church in Harrisburg asked Ruth to help pioneer a residential recovery center. Ruth accepted the challenge and began to write the policy and procedures, by-laws, staff and resident manuals, and network with the local community to raise awareness and support for the new facility. Once the 501 (c)(3) was in place and the board approved all the workings of the facility, Lifeline Connections groups were started for community support, followed by a Day Program that quickly turned into the now functioning 23 bed women's facility for recovering addicts.

Ruth has always had a heart to share her story of redemption with students and to teach them to do the same. She plans to demonstrate the importance of not only drug prevention and the effects and consequences of drug use, but more so, what situations or feelings lead to drug use and or addiction. Ruth outlines the Stay Sharp presentation, to include an opening ice-breaker connection moment, educational video, Teen challenge student stories, along with a live illustration using the TC students to teach the importance of daily choices that produce either positive or negative consequences in our live. This will indeed be a landmark moment for many who participate in the Stay Sharp presentations.

One of Ruth's favorite quotes is one that the Lord spoke to her in March of 2009, "you are 100% exposed yet 100% loved."

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