## Greater Piedmont Adult & Teen Challenge, Inc.

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## New Beginnings

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My name is Carl Hunt and I am 51 years old. I had a good childhood growing up on a tobacco farm. It was a hard life, but I never went without. Sometimes I got more than I needed. I was always loved by all my family and we based our lives on respect for one another and God. Life was good all through school, but when I got out, I started messing with drugs and alcohol. I was hanging out with people who were unhealthy for me.

When I was about 25, I was dating a girl who I thought was the love of my life. We had two kids. My son and my daughter where totally gifts from God. They definitely slowed my drug and alcohol problems, but only for a season. Then their mother and I started having problems and we started to grow apart. Soon we split up. I got very angry and resentful to her and did a lot of bad things to her. This just pushed her away for good.

In the next ten years I went deep into my addiction to drugs and alcohol. I was doing whatever was available at the time. I always had a good job and never had problems with money. I always put my kids' needs before my addiction.

Ten more years down the road was another rough spot in my life. It turned my anger into pure rage against someone who I cared about. They were like family to me. The drugs and alcohol lead to me being stabbed eight times. I actually died two times, in the helicopter ride to Chapel hill. All this lead me to go deeper in drugs. This put my life on a road to destruction.

So here we are in 2021. I got into something I never thought I would ever do, and it was hurting everyone I loved. This drug caused me to overdose three times. I woke up in the hospital each time, and me trying to explain to my children what was going on with me.

On October 10, 2021, I found myself with two DWI's, no driver license, and I quit my job of five years. So on this day about 12 noon, I walked to a grill, close to my home, and decided to get wasted and forget about everything. This is what I had done so many times in the past. But, this time it was different. God was there with me that day. I started talking to this guy named Mark. I don't know what it was about him, but he was just different. He was so joyful. I felt I could tell him anything, so I told him my story. I broke down in tears right there and then Mark did something that no one had ever done for me before. He prayed for me and I rededicated my life to God. Then he asked me a question "If I could get you somewhere in the presence of God and help you to walk in a new life with Him, would you do it? It won't cost you anything. I will take care of it." Mark went to the bathroom and I thought, "God is this what you want me to do?" This burning sweat came over me and I knew it must be from God. Then Mark came back and I was crying. He said, "Let me call my friend at Teen Challenge." So he got Wayne Duesberry on the phone and Wayne talked to me. I knew what I was going to do. I told Mark, "I'm ready for something different out of my life. What do I have to do?" The next day Wayne got me into a place and I detoxed for five days.

I came to Teen Challenge not knowing what to expect. While in the program God showed me so many of the things I had been missing out on for the last 30 years of my life. I thank God for all the chances He has given me. Time and time again He has demonstrated His mercy and grace in my life. If it had not been for Him, I know I could have died many times. I am looking forward to what God is going to do in my life and through me from this day forward. I give Him all the glory and praise. AMEN

Isn't this a great testimony of God's redeeming grace? I love to hear the testimonies of the men who come through the program. We stand on Romans 8:38, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God." Thank you for being a part of this powerful story. <u>We are in great need of your financial support</u>. The summer slump has begun and we ask you to give generously to help further the ministry. God bless you for your faithfulness. Dr. Bob



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We are in need of volunteers in our thrift store. <u>We especially need people with</u> <u>skills in pricing collectibles</u>. If you have experience in this area, and would like to do some volunteer work, please contact Karen Coble, our thrift store manager, or Debbie Harman, our Business Director. They will be happy to talk to you about this opportunity. Thank you so very much. 336-292-7795 x 308 - Karen; x 303-Debbie

Come and shop at BLESSINGDALE'S THRIFT STORE, located at 1910 Boulevard Street, in Greensboro. Come find your next treasure! We have a lot of them.



Greater Piedmont Adult & Teen Challenge is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.