

Greater Piedmont Teen Challenge, Inc.

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NEW BEGINNINGS

VERSION 13: ISSUE 2



Joey's Entry Photo



Joey's Graduation Photo

Last month, we showed you the photos of our 2022 graduates. We accidentally omitted Joey Weatherly's photo in January's newsletter. We want to share Joey's story with you. This is a wonderful testimony of God's redeeming grace.

My name is Joseph Bishop Weatherly. I am 27 years old and I'm from Hyde County, NC. I had a good childhood. I was blessed with a good family and parents who did the very best they could. I was always a daddy's boy. I was "attached to my father's hip".

In my early teens, I had my first experience with prescription painkillers. I enjoyed the feeling it gave me and from that night forward I craved and needed painkillers. During that time, my father suddenly had a massive stroke. He lost movement on one side of his body, his speech, and his short-term memory. I was completely devastated.

I began to take painkillers more than ever to help cope and deal with the fact the man I had saw as superman was reduced to a wheelchair. His loss of hope crushed me. But, by God's grace and mercy, over the next year, my father slowly regained his movement and speech.

By then I was deep in my addiction. The opiates had consumed my life and held me captive. At the end of my 9th grade, I dropped out of high school and went to work with my father in the salvage and land development business. He physically was not able to do alone what it demanded of him. As the business slowed down, we decided to move into the wholesale business. We sold produce to restaurants and small grocery stores on the islands of the OBX of NC. All the while, I was still using rather heavily, but functioning.

I met a girl who worked for us part-time, and we hit it off. At the age of 25, I married her. While all this took place, my father's health declined. The stroke and diabetes caused him to go into kidney failure, which led to renal failure. Dad was placed in hospice in early 2020. That's when I really dove off the deep end. I began to use heroin, fentanyl, and crack cocaine. I became a heavy user, up until his passing in November of 2020.

At this point I lost all will to live, let alone take care of a wife or myself. I was so lost. I thought I would never be found. This caused a distance to grow between me and my wife.

I had had enough and decided to call my mother to seek help. She got me in contact with a **local pastor who led me to Greater Piedmont Adult and Teen Challenge.** I agreed to go to the program immediately. I arrived at Teen Challenge, in Greensboro, NC, within 72 hours. ***As I stepped foot on the property, I felt a peace like I had never experienced in my life. There was a sense of safety, and a sense of rest.***

The list of things God has done for me is endless. He has delivered me from any craving or desire for substances. He met me in the middle of my darkest storm and saved me from myself and my flesh. I have gained a new outlook on life. From here forward I have purpose and drive. I now have a love for myself and for those around me. I am now surrounded by his love, grace, and mercy. I now have PEACE.

The staff here at Greater Piedmont Adult and Teen Challenge welcomed me with open arms and loved me like I could never explain. They guided me to the greatest and most important relationship I have ever had, my relationship with my Lord Jesus Christ. I will forever be thankful for the ministry staff and the people running Teen Challenge. Thanks to them, their outpouring of love and guidance, I have a changed life, an opportunity to live and be happy. I am now comfortable with my life and motivated to push through any obstacle that comes my way. This ministry has also allowed me to seek God and His will for my life. I want to minister to those who are where I was. I want to show them what God is capable of through my outpouring of love. I want to help them be picked up out of the darkness and help bring them to the light, like God did for me.

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Reminder:

Greater Piedmont Adult & Teen Challenge would love to come to your church, civic group, school, or group meeting and share what God is doing in the hearts of the men who come to us for HOPE. Jesus is the answer to their heart's cry. Man can't fix their issues, but Jesus can.

If you want to find out more about having us come and share with you, contact Bradley at 336-292-7795 x 304. Bradley would love to put you on our calendar. You will be blessed, and the men would love to tell you what God is doing in their lives.

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I hope you enjoyed Joey's testimony. It is exciting to watch God move in the lives of the men who come to Greater Piedmont Adult & Teen Challenge.

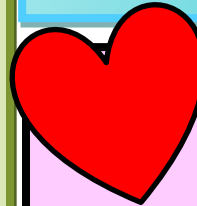
Joey is such an awesome young man. He has joined our staff and is truly called to this ministry. He has a smile and a laugh that is infectious. He is patient and caring to the men who are currently in the program. We are very proud of Joey. To God be all the glory!

Dr. Bob

Update on the Van. We have awesome people who support this ministry. The need is shared, and you step up. Last month our need for a new van was sent out. The cost is over \$58,000.00. You all are awesome, as of 1/24/2023, our total on hand, is \$48,650.00. There is no doubt the Lord will provide the rest of the funds.

It'll be exciting to transport our men in a new and safe vehicle. God is so good. Thank you to everyone who has given. If you want to be part of this, send in your donation and make sure we know it is for the van. However, we do ask that you do not shift your regular support. We are still in need of operating funds. Blessings to each of you.


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



Happy Valentine's Day. Remember our Thrift Store has a lot of great décor. If you need to find something pretty to decorate with, just stop by and have a look. Blessingdale's Thrift Store is open Mon-Sat, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. You will  it!

Don't forget we take donations of good condition clothing and furniture. Please only items that are clean and in good condition.

If you want to find out more about volunteering at the thrift store, please stop by and speak with Karen. Thanks so much for being a loyal customer.

John 3:16 tells us that God  the world so much, He gave His only son, so if you believe in Him, you can life eternal. Such love, such wonderous love.