



# BRINGING WHOLENESS TO THE HOPELESS



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## SUCCESS STORY | CHRIS

Chris had a government job and for most of his life had never struggled with addiction. But in 2011 all that changed. **Chris suffered a major fall at his job, herniating and rupturing two discs in his back. Chris's doctor prescribed him pain pills, and the life he knew soon began to unravel.**

*"I started off fine and eventually ended up taking the pills abusively. One thing led to another and it quickly spiraled into a major addiction that I never in a million years would have known existed or wished on anybody."*



During the next seven years, Chris's addiction grew. He cycled in and out of jail, doing things he would never have previously dreamed of doing to fund his addiction.

After completing another prison sentence and running back to the drugs, Chris's low point came when his family told him that he had to make a choice. It was either them or the drugs.

Feeling powerless, Chris chose the drugs, and the weight of that choice quickly became increasingly more difficult for him to bear. Looking back at his time in active addiction, **one of Chris's biggest regrets is the wedge that drugs and alcohol put between him and his daughter.**

*"By that time I had no hope. I thought I was destined to be a drug addict for the rest of my life and that was that. I was sick of hurting and hurting everyone around me."*

In despair Chris decided to use opiates to end his own life. But God had other plans. First

responders found him and were able to use Narcan to resuscitate him.

It was then that Chris finally reached out for help. **He quickly discovered that PAATC was the only place that was actually willing to come pick him up right away.**

Like many taking their first steps toward recovery, Chris was originally fearful of a long-term commitment. But as he went through PAATC's detox and short-term programs, he saw his need for the Lord and for PAATC's Long-Term Program.

*"I saw the love of Christ shining through everyone around me, and it was so appealing. I wanted what they had. That was when I truly gave myself to the Lord."*

Chris had heard the Gospel in the past and had once even responded to it in a prison boot camp, but his faith finally flourished and bore fruit at PAATC.

During his time in the program Chris served in a variety of ministries. While serving on the worship team **he was able to uncover musical giftings that he never knew he had.** His passion for Christ translated into music, a gift that steadily continues to point others to the Lord. Chris and several other gifted graduates of the program even started a worship group called "It is Written".

With a newfound joy, Chris can be found diligently working in PAATC's admissions office, worshipping with his bandmates

as they lead praise services, and serving at GT Church's weekly Celebrate Recovery meetings.

*"It's just amazing to see the transformation of where I was two years ago when I wanted to end my life to where I am now with the love, the joy, and the peace that He's given me. I honestly would tell anyone who's struggling with any kind of addiction that PAATC has been a saving grace. I'm forever grateful for each person who gives to PAATC and provides the opportunity for others to find help for addiction, grow to know the Lord, and find a new way of life in Christ."*

**SAVE THE DATE**

*Charity Gala* **2021**

READING, PA  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

## Q&A WITH PASTOR BRYAN

### How did you first hear of PAATC?

I first heard of Pennsylvania Adult and Teen Challenge (PAATC) soon after I came to Christ in 1981. I was connected to the ministry of David Wilkerson through his preaching and newsletters as I attended Bible College. After becoming a Lead Pastor, I served on the board of PAATC, as well as the chairman of the board in the late 90's. Before every meeting we would hear the most amazing testimonies from the men in the program.

### What was your previous role in ministry and how long did you serve there?

I served 33 years at GT Church in Reading, Pa. Twenty-nine of those years as the Lead Pastor for the church. I also served in a number of ministries in the Assemblies of God, including serving as the Assistant Superintendent for 11 years.



### Why did you and your church support PAATC?

I personally and as a pastor choose to support PAATC because I strongly believe in the ministry, mission, and vision of PAATC. I was honored to minister to the lives of those in need and be a part of the life changing stories of those who come through the program. I have seen many men who have come to PAATC completely changed and I was so glad to be a part of helping them financially to get there for much needed help. I support PAATC because we know that God has called us to help people and use the gifts and resources that He has given us and the church to help PAATC fulfill its vital mission in our communities.

### Why have you chosen to serve at PAATC?

I chose to serve at PAATC because of God's calling on my life. Also, because my life and family have personally been impacted by the devastating effects of drugs and alcohol. My wife and I were hit by an SUV driven by a drunk driver June 7, 2015 while riding our Harley-Davidson. My wife lost her life and I lost my left leg!

At PAATC I get to not only be a part of how God is rescuing those trapped in addiction, but to also challenge others through ministry in local churches to help those in need as I have opportunity to share my story of God's strength and grace.

### Why do you think a ministry like PAATC is important for the local church?

I believe PAATC is important for the local church because addiction is absolutely everywhere and it does not discriminate. I have seen as a pastor and speaker that there are families and individuals in each local church, who are bearing the weight of addiction. I have talked to so many who have been hurt by the struggle of addiction and loss. As pastors serve their churches and reach out to a hurting world, PAATC is a valuable resource they can tap into to provide personalized Christian care for those struggling with addiction.

### What are you looking forward to as you serve at PAATC?

I am looking forward to seeing more and more lives transformed throughout our ministry and community. I am also looking forward to being a part of a team and ministry seeing God call more friends, churches, and families to serve those caught in the grip of addiction. I'm excited to see God continue to use PAATC to bring hope, wholeness, and restoration to those in need.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The partnership we have with local churches has always been a fundamental part of who we are at Pennsylvania Adult & Teen Challenge and Naaman Center. As a faith centered organization, we recognize the crucial role that the body of Christ plays not only in individual lives but in this ministry as a whole. **We could not do what we do without the support of a full community of believers** who are invested with us in the lives of those caught in the grip of addiction.

Local churches have provided our students with consistent financial and spiritual support since the beginning, and they continue to be a key component in the recovery journey of those we serve.

**It is our hope that each person who comes through our doors will come to a saving knowledge of Christ and experience a holistic life change.** Therefore, providing opportunities to encounter God is a priority in all of our programming. Our students are challenged and encouraged by various pastors and ministry teams who speak into their lives regularly during their stay with us.

After taking this valuable time apart to invest in their own lives, it is also crucial for our graduates to return to their communities and become involved in their local churches. **This relationship is vital for spiritual health and continued growth as a positive member of society.**

As men, women, and families are struggling against life and death in this drug epidemic, we are grateful to count on local churches to be the Lord's hands and feet for those in need. Thank you for being part of the incredible work that God is doing!



Kris J. McFadden, Sr., M.A.R.  
President/CEO

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