

# Mighty to Save ministries

*Offering hope and new beginnings to young adults who want to be free from addictions by providing mentoring, discipling and transition assistance.*

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## WHY?

This morning I read an obituary of a young man that overdosed from heroin. This young man had a Christian foundation. He had been active in sports, he was said to have had “a sparkle in his eye and a boyish smile”. They described him as fearless. By this description, this could be my son. It could be about so many of our children.

The obituary goes on to say, “Just one use of heroin was all it took and he was “taken”, no longer having the ability to choose.” “He had multiple recovery attempts. He fought hard.”

Why is addiction such a battle? What is its hold? I read an article the other day by Kathie Kane Willis, a self-described “former heroin user”, titled [“What Mental Health Treatment Gets Right and What Addiction Treatment Gets Wrong Pt 1.”](#) One thing that stood out to me was the phrase, “But really drugs don’t come to get you. Let’s be real here. Drugs don’t fall out of the sky. They are inanimate objects, so logically all they can do is exist. If we choose to use them, it’s because we look for them. Drugs don’t look for you because they can’t look. They don’t have eyes.”

That sounds very reasonable. Drugs are inanimate. They themselves are powerless. So again, I ask the question, Why? What is the appeal? Why would someone ever choose to try them? How does this “thing” gain so much power over so many lives?

In a letter from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, they stated, “More Americans now die every year from drug overdoses than they do in motor vehicle crashes.” According to the American Society of Addiction Medicine, in 2014, there were 47,055 lethal drug overdoses in the United States. What is missing? What is happening to our children?

As I was thinking about these questions, I thought about the Garden of Eden and Eve. What enticed her to try the forbidden fruit? It was a lie. The enemy told her a lie and she believed it.

**Genesis 3 - The Message (MSG)**

*3 The serpent was clever, more clever than any wild animal God had made. He spoke to the Woman: “Do I understand that God told you not to eat from any tree in the garden?” 2-3 The Woman said to the serpent, “Not at all. We can eat from the trees in the garden. It’s only about the tree in the middle of the*

*garden that God said, ‘Don’t eat from it; don’t even touch it or you’ll die.’” 4-5 The serpent told the Woman, “You won’t die. God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you’ll see what’s really going on. You’ll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil.” 6 When the Woman saw that the tree looked like good eating and realized what she would get out of it—she’d know everything!—she took and ate the fruit and then gave some to her husband, and he ate.*

It was a lie, “You won’t die.” Eve believed the serpent. Why?

One of our Participants said to me once, “This (drug use) is something I thought I would do for a while. I didn’t have any idea I would spend the next 15 years of my life fighting it.” She believed a lie. Why?

When we meet with an inmate for the first time, we often tell them, “Drugs are not your problem. They have been your solution to your heart pain.” We all have heart pain at some level. We just choose to deal with it in different ways. Some choose to numb with drugs and alcohol. Others become overachievers, workaholics, religious..., the list goes on and on.

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**“WHY?” - from page 1**

When Jesus went to the cross, his death covered it all, every single sin including drug use. God is not in Heaven right now saying, “Oh no, I didn’t see this coming. I don’t have a way to make this right.” So again, I have to ask the question, Why?

I am learning that addiction is a very spiritual battle. It goes deep into the core belief system of every user. This is not something that most want. This is not rebellion, although for some, it may have started out that way. I have had grown men sit in my office and cry tears of despair in their fight for freedom.

What are we as believers missing? What can we do to help those that are caught up in this horrible, life-stealing disease? What can we do to prevent the next generation from getting mixed up in it? This is a battle that must be fought and will be won in the spiritual realm.

I do not have all the answers. This is a continual conversation that I have been having with my Father God. I think there are some key things that we have to go after and continue to explore.

**Identity** - Who we are in Christ. We need to know we are His children, we are His beloved. Who HE is to us, such as, He is our healer, He is our creator, and He is our loving Daddy.

**Love** - We have to be able to receive the love of our Father; and we have to be able to love ourselves. If we don’t, then we will never be able to truly love others. (Matthew 22)

**Forgiveness** - This is also something that we must be able to receive from God; and we must be able to forgive ourselves. (1 John 1) So often, we see these hurting hearts believe that what they have done is unforgivable, or that if they do forgive themselves then what they did doesn’t matter and they will do it again. They believe a lie such as, lack of forgiveness will keep them from sinning again.

Our enemy is the father of lies, BUT the truth of Jesus will set us free. (John 8)

Somehow we have to help those in this fight against addiction, to allow God’s truth into their hearts. They have to know that no matter what they have done, they are loved, they are forgiven, and they are children of God. There is freedom and there is hope. As a mom of someone who is in this fight, I will stand with him and I will fight alongside. I will speak truth to his heart and as hard as it is, I will love unconditionally. I will look at his heart and not focus on his behavior. I will continue to come into agreement with God for the plans that He has for him and call out the man I know God created him to be.

I don’t have answers. I have love. Will I make mistakes? Probably, okay, yes I will. But I will do it in love.

**Night of Hope**

Our Night of Hope was wonderful! Thank you Rodriguey Family for being vulnerable and sharing your hearts with us. Thank you to everyone who helped with food, music, prayer, setting up and taking down. Your participation made the evening a success.





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**Mighty to Save Ministries**

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