

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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Forging Relationships

Five years ago in February 2012, we stepped out in blind faith and launched Mighty to Save Ministries. We had worked tirelessly on becoming a 501c3 non-profit. We had our mission statement and we had a vision. That's about all we had; but we decided we had come this far, we may as well continue on and see what God had up His sleeve. We believed He had a plan, and so we grabbed hold of His hand, and held on tight.

It became clear early on that this was not a "meet-with-someone-one-time-and-move-on" kind of thing. No, it was evident that this process was going to be long term and ongoing. It really isn't a surprise that God would choose to do things this way. Relationships are important to Him. He designed them. He gave us example after example of relationships in the Bible: Moses and Aaron, David and Jonathan, Jesus and his disciples, Paul & Silas, Paul and Timothy... You get the picture.

So, here we are five years later, and guess what? Yep. Relationships. Good relationships, long-lasting relationships, through the ups and downs, sticking it out together—relationships.

If you have been following MtSM for any amount of time now, you've probably heard of Derek. He was our "first" MtSM kid. I met him the night of the accident in Harbor View's Emergency waiting room, before MtSM was even a thought. Well, here we are, 6 1/2 years later, and we are still a big part of Derek's life. It has been a rocky road with this one, but we have stuck in out, and guess what? Today Derek is sober. Today Derek is loving Jesus and learning to live that out in a very real way. Last month Derek's father unexpectedly passed away. We were a little worried at first about him coming back to town, these were his old stomping grounds and if he wanted to, he could very easily have fallen back to his old ways, but he didn't. Derek stayed committed to his relationship with God and his desire to honor both his Heavenly Father and his earthly father. It was an honor to walk through this process with him. It was a pleasure to watch him as he handled himself with dignity and a sense of humbleness that surprised those who only knew him in his old ways.

About a month before our official launch in 2012, I got a call about a young lady, Sarah. The person on the phone said Sarah had given up hope. I remember

walking through the woods, praying for this young lady that we hadn't even met. Wondering how we were going to help her. How were we to offer hope to a stranger?

A few days later, we were able to connect with Sarah; and again, through a series of many highs and lows, we stayed by Sarah's side. No judgement, no condemnation, just unconditional love. Fast forward five years, and Sarah has four years of sobriety. She is living back in her home town without fear of relapse because of what she has allowed God to do in her life. Her relationship with her family has been restored. She is working two jobs and is making plans for her future. She has a dream of going back to Africa as a long-term missionary. Sarah is one of the kindest and most compassionate young ladies I have ever met.

Josh and Kadie were our first couple. We met them in January, 2013. They are parents to a beautiful little girl, and wanted so much to be free of their addiction. We came alongside this family; and through every attempt at sobriety, every move, every trial, we stuck by them.

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They have since told me that there were times they didn't want me there, but I would show up anyway and continue loving them, believing in them, and reminding them that Jesus loved them too.

Here we are four years later, and they have almost 2 1/2 years of sobriety. They have been blessed with another beautiful baby girl, and they are on staff with a Christian discipleship ministry, loving others out of their addictions.

I am so honored and fortunate to be a part of these amazing lives. I get to be Derek's spiritual mom, Sarah's "Mama Bear" and Auntie Nina to Josh and Kadie's lovely daughters. I get to watch as they mature and develop into the men and women that God has purposed and planned for them to be. What a joy!

Through each low and each high, God was and is working. With every effort at newness, a seed was planted, and a brick was laid in their foundation. In Jesus, nothing is wasted, every fall is a chance to get up and go again.

“Restoration and relationships are part of God's business. It's what He does.”

One of the greatest privileges in this ministry is seeing each of these children of God and others like them, be healed, step out in faith, and grab ahold of God's hand.

Each one, in their own way, are now involved in MtSM on some level. Once Derek completes his current program, he wants to come back and help fulfill the dream of Transitional Housing. He wants to be a House leader and come alongside other young men wanting to be free. Sarah is currently reaching out to a young lady who is being released from prison next month, with plans to mentor her and be there for her as she readjusts to life on the outs, loving her through what is sure to be an adventure. With their position in the other ministry, Josh and Kadie have been able to help get other MtSM participants into the program they are with. They share their testimony of healing with others to encourage them

that there is life after addiction. All three are carrying on our mission statement of "offering hope".

These are just a few examples of the awe-inspiring young people that I have the privilege of sharing life with every day. To each and every participant who has allowed Mighty to Save Ministries to be a part of your life, THANK YOU! Thank you for trusting us. Thank you for your patience with us as we continue to learn and grow, and most importantly, thank you for loving us, loving God and loving others. I can't wait to see where the next five years takes us.

But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. 1 Thessalonians 2: 7 & 8

~ Christina

Participant's Note

This month's Participant Note is written by a young man, Andrew. I have known Andrew since 2003, way before addiction had affected either of our lives.

Andrew is another great example of relationship. We don't get to see each other very much anymore, but he is good about calling and checking in. Last week when we were chatting he mentioned how he is reaching out to those still in prison. He is carrying on the mission, he is offering hope to those still in the struggle. I don't know if I can put into words how much this blesses me. It is part of the natural healing process, coming along side others, sharing life, being relational. I love it!

Thank you Andrew for being willing to share with us this month and thank you for following your heart and reaching out to others.

From Andrew:

It's been two and a half months since I was released from prison, though it feels like a whole other lifetime ago. 18 months in was the ultimate wake up call for

someone who had fallen deeply into a lifestyle of the living dead. My struggles, fueled by an unchecked addiction to heroin, drove me to my ultimate bottom.

But "the night is always darkest before the dawn" rings ever so true in my life. Because God was waiting patiently at my bottom for me to arrive, broken and ready to accept His grace. He put countless instrumental people in my path during the next 18 months, and continues to do so today. Without the helping hands, encouraging words, and patient hearts He kept in my life I would not have stepped out of prison the changed man I am known as today.

So what to do with such an extravagant gift as this? I believe it is to pay it forward! Many of those instrumental people He put in my life are



Andrew T.

still behind those walls serving the remainder of their time. And since I found out first hand how important it is to have people on the outside staying in contact with you and encouraging you, I feel honored and blessed to be able to keep in contact with these fine gentlemen.

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Not only is it beneficial for them, it is greatly therapeutic for me and drives me to succeed. If I ever feel down or defeated or worthless, I have a present reminder of where I came from and how far I have come! Praise God!

~ Andrew T.

P.S.

There are countless ways of helping out the countless prisoners in the system today. If you can afford 2 stamps a month and want to make a difference in someone’s life, get yourself a pen pal on the inside. You never know how God will use you until you put yourself out there.

Pen Pals Needed

We continue to receive requests from inmates desiring Christian pen-pals. All this really requires is sharing life experiences via letters or email. It’s listening, encouraging and speaking life with someone that wants and desires a friendship in Christ.

If you are willing to write a letter once or twice a month, please contact us. This really doesn’t require a lot of time but the investment could have many heavenly returns. Thank you for prayerfully considering this very meaningful outreach.



Derek and Pam (his mother) at his dad’s memorial



Gaye, Emily and Sarah



The Haggans

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P.O. Box 1738 Oak Harbor, WA 98277

info@mightytosaveministries.org
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