

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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Ups and Downs

Happy New Year!

In this edition of the MtSM Newsletter, you will be reading an entry written by Derek C. If you have been a subscriber for a while, you have read other articles by him.

I have a tremendous amount of respect for Derek. When we were meeting with him at the jail in 2013, he was honest and vulnerable which allowed his heart to heal. He was facing a 10 year prison sentence; but as he was preparing to go, he had a peace that he had not experienced before.

He has done his time like nothing I have seen before. He went, willing to take every opportunity to become the best of himself that he could be. He has graduated many different programs during this incarceration. He has taken Upholstery classes, Book-Keeping, Aerospace Composite Technology, and Basic Carpentry, just to name a few. He has also been very involved with

different church services and Toastmasters.

As you will read in his story, this past fall was one of change for his family. Please keep Derek, his mom, sister and the rest of the family in prayer as they adjust to a new normal. Learning to live life without a loved one is so difficult. The process is emotional with many ups and downs.

As I write this, Derek is experiencing a down.

Derek, I hope this encourages your heart. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

“At its most basic level, to have hope is to believe that something good is going to happen. That help is on the way. That it’s not over yet, and no matter how dark it seems, there’s going to be light at the end of the tunnel. Hope is a confident expectation. A joyful anticipation. An active, dynamic, energizing enthusiasm. When you have hope, gale-force winds can blow and tsunami waves can smash into the hull of your life, but you are

buoyed by the belief that the best is yet to come, that brighter days are ahead. Hope quietly tells your heart that all is not lost, even as storms rage. Our hope is a living hope, because Jesus lives forever.”

— Levi Lusko, *Through the Eyes of a Lion: Facing Impossible Pain, Finding Incredible Power*

~ Christina

Participant’s Note

The Struggles God Helped Me Through

Hi my name is Derek. I’ve been involved with Mighty to Save since 2013.

When Christina and I first met I was in a very dark place physically, spiritually and emotionally. I had lost hope. I thought my life was over and contemplated ending it. The Lord knows when exactly to put someone into another’s life.

After that first meeting with her in the jail, my attitude changed. I started to come out of my shell. My anger and resentments were fading away. My better life started getting closer.

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“Struggles” - from page 1

Ever since then, Christina has been helping me grow spiritually. The books she sent me helped, taught me how to be a better father and Christian. Thank you so much, Christina, for your devotion to helping all of us.

This past couple weeks have been tough on me and my family. I got called to visiting for an unexpected visit, so I hurried down there to see who it could be. When I got there, the CO directed me to the administration building. I said a quick prayer in my head, “Lord, please don’t let it be bad news about my dad. The minute I saw my big sister and her husband, I knew it was bad news. We wrapped our arms around each other and cried. After they left, I went back to the living unit and got in the shower to shed some more tears.

The next few days were filled with thoughts and dreams about my dad. I am the man I am today because of my dad. He taught me how to be a kind, courteous, hard-working man. He taught me Bible verses, about God’s love, family values and so much more. No matter what path I was taking, he would never give up on me. We had built our relationship over the years to be filled with laughs and love. It sucks I had to be sentenced to almost ten years in prison to finally become the man my dad raised me to be.

“Why does this have to be now, God? Why couldn’t I at least be home to help my mom, and be able to spend some time with my dad?”

Well, my path led me here, my poor decision making is to blame. I know God has a plan for me, to be of service. This significant loss has strengthen me. I have to carry on my dad’s legacy in a positive way. Helping others succeed in life would have made him happy, so that is what is in store.

The most stressful ten days of my life were on the horizon. I had to make arrangements to get me transported to the funeral. Every day, I was in my counselor’s office, checking if she received the date, time, and location. Once that was figured out, did she receive my original birth certificate? Did

everyone sign off on the immense packs of paperwork required to attend a funeral? The things that needed to be done slowly got done. Last, the money required to be paid by my family, did it show up? The day prior to the service, all was completed, and I was scheduled to be transported to my home town, Anacortes. I know the Lord wanted me to be at the service, plus I needed to have closure.

The day of the funeral, I went over my poem and notes for my speech. This is going to be difficult talking without getting to emotional. Then, I remembered the Lord won’t put anything in front of me that is too hard to handle.

I arrived at the church one and a half hours before the service. The moment I entered the church, I saw signs of my dad-- pictures, songs, the pulpit he built, and the people he loved. My mom’s sister and my cousin were there to greet me



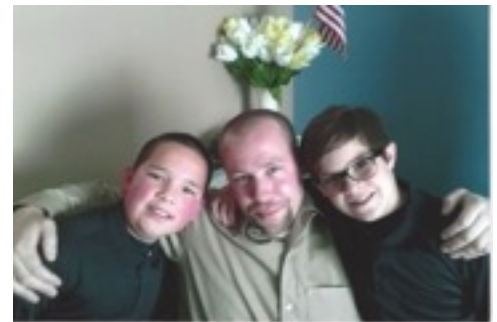
with a long, warm hug. Then, Pastor Paul came and talked with me. There I was, in prison clothes, with two officers, being able to attend my dad’s funeral.

As the people showed up, I could feel the compassion they had for my family. We were ushered into a room for close family members. This was new for me. I had only been to one funeral before this. In walks my two lovely boys, whom I have not seen for over four years. At this time of sadness, there were moments of

joy. Seeing all the family members together honoring my dad’s life brought a smile to my face.

Once Pastor Paul called for us, I was there to walk arm in arm with my mother down the aisle to our seats. I got the privilege to be there next to my mother in her time of need. The songs my dad wanted to be sung were sung. My time to speak was coming up soon. Did I remember all the speaking skills I learned from Toastmasters?

As the time neared, I heard the Lord say to me, “I am here with you.” This put me at ease for the most part. My sister



spoke, then I got up there, proudly read a poem, and spoke about my dad. When I was finished, everyone clapped vigorously. The Lord gave me the strength to get up there and deliver my message without breaking down in tears.

I know now that I can deal with anything, as long as I’m sober and have God on my side. There is nothing too emotional that I can’t handle, clean and sober. I got to see how many people have forgiven me for my wrongs and still care about me. I have been given a second chance at life; and I’m going to make the best of it.

Thank you Christina for truly being there for me in my time of need.

God Bless,
Derek





Prayer Requests

Grant seeking and writing
venture

Island County jail inmates

WA state prison inmates

Mountain Ministries

Good Earth Recovery

The Dream Center

Rehab Facilities

Healing of hearts from
false beliefs

Insight, wisdom and
discernment for helping
those coming out of
addiction

Getting clean and
staying clean

Transitional/
Transformational Housing

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