

***The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9***

People who know someone struggling with an addiction often wonder how they can help him or her. In most cases, everyone else sees the problem and feels the effects a lot sooner than the addict does. The harder you push him to get help the farther away he goes, but if you do nothing, he could die! In this situation it can be very difficult to determine what is best to do. In the 50 plus years of Dunklin we have seen hundreds of difficult cases: all unique, all people at different bottoms, but all of whom needed help. Unfortunately, the only individuals that actually get help are the ones that truly want to change.

At Dunklin, the intake process begins when the man in need of assistance calls and asks for help. Many times the initial call isn't made by the individual, but by a concerned family member or friend. Often this step can be valuable in planting the seed of coming to Dunklin in the mind of the addict. Ultimately, however, he must make the call himself to show his willingness to seek help. Until the addict desires change for himself, the actions of friends and family are futile.

The first problem you run into when trying to convince someone that he or she needs help is denial. No matter what crises he has created, he is blind to reality. Denial is defined as suppression of the truth. As long as the addict is living in denial, he will not seek nor accept help because in his eyes there is no need. When the addict has finally had enough, he will come to the first step of change, which is admittance. When he humbles himself to admit he has lost control and wants to change his life, then, and only then, can the Lord intervene. This process can be quick for some, and for others it can take years of living a lifestyle of destruction. Either way, you can help them most effectively through diligent prayer.



Pray for the addict to safely come to a time of desperation and crisis. This is necessary for him to awaken to the reality that he has a problem and is in need of help. During this time it is vital for loved ones to **fully** allow the crisis to take place. For some addicts this may involve becoming homeless, being confined to jail, losing their family, or even experiencing an overdose. It's natural for friends and family to attempt to rescue the addict from this crisis out of the care, concern and love they have for him. However, you must be careful. To cushion the fall could take away from the reality God wants to show him and may even stifle the work He is doing in him.

As a loved one, our initial reaction is to treat the person instead of the problem. If someone needs an operation, you wouldn't say, "Don't worry, with love and affection the problem will go away." No! You would want him to go and have the operation. Friends and family instinctively make the mistake of trying to love the addict out of the crisis that could be the very turning point for him to get serious help and surrender to God. This mistake may look like paying one or more of his bills, bailing him out of jail, or covering the cost for him to go to an expensive secular program. There is a fine line between being co-dependent and giving help that is constructive. If what you are contemplating doing for the addict is either something he can do for himself or is rescuing him from a consequence of his own actions, you are only hurting him by proceeding.

Friends and family members can pray for the individual, provide phone numbers to available programs, and offer assistance to help him physically arrive at the treatment facility once he has been accepted. The rest is up to him and **should be left for him to do**. By doing things for him that he can, and should be doing for himself, you are only delaying the very crisis he needs to open his eyes to the desolate state of his life.

If the individual you are trying to help doesn't fit our criteria, or doesn't want what we offer, he can still call us. There are many other programs around the world to which we can refer him or her. Some of these programs are modeled after Dunklin and some are different types of programs for individuals with various needs. Such programs include transitional settings with less structure (where the man can hold a job while living in a safe environment), women's programs, and programs specializing in men ages 18-25. Below are just a few of the programs we refer to and there are more listed on our website at [www.dunklin.org](http://www.dunklin.org).

### Men's Programs

A Place of Restoration  
Gray, LA  
(985) 223 - 3253

Cross Training Ministries  
La Belle, FL (Ages 18-25)  
(863) 675 - 8001

Faith Farm  
Okeechobee, FL  
(863) 763 - 4224

Fresh Start  
Orlando, FL  
(407) 293 - 3822

Eagles Nest  
Floyd, VA  
(540) 745 - 4001

Evans Training Center  
Wellford, SC  
(864) 473 - 0888

Hebron Center  
Bloomington, IN  
(317) 636-2720

Liberty Lodge  
Titusville, FL  
(321) 264 - 0757

### Women's Programs

Agape Home  
Moore Haven, FL  
(863) 946 - 2228

His Mansion (& Men)  
Hillsboro, NH  
(603) 464 - 5555

Lydia's House  
Wauchula, FL  
(863) 773 - 0877

The Refuge Ranch  
Okeechobee, FL  
(772) 597 - 0992

### Other Ministries

Abba House  
Cumming, GA  
(678) 208 - 2000

Broken Shackle Ranch  
Davisboro, GA  
(478) 348 - 6555

Courageous House  
Port Salerno, FL  
(772) 349 - 9164

Women's Refuge  
Vero Beach, FL  
(772) 770 - 4424

## **Guaranteed Prescription for Recovery**

*Things you can start doing to help your loved one*

Addicts are dependent people and they cannot stand alone. Out of their needs they grant power to the people closest to them. Therefore, the family can either perpetuate the addiction or take steps to initiate recovery. The following prescription for recovery shows the usual actions of those involved with addicts and what can be done instead. These actions are all constructive in nature; as such they guarantee positive results.

- \* You no longer have to run or deny the presence of addiction in your family. Start learning the facts about the problem.
- \* You no longer have to blame the addict. Start concentrating on your own actions - they are what will make or break you.
- \* You no longer have to control the addict's using. Start concentrating on his need for treatment and start offering treatment.
- \* You no longer have to rescue the addict. Start letting him suffer and assume responsibility for **each and every** consequence of his using.
- \* You no longer have to be concerned with the addict's reasons for using. Start resuming a normal living pattern.
- \* You no longer have to threaten. Start saying what you mean and **doing** what you say.
- \* You no longer have to accept or extract promises. Start rejecting them. Tell him to **show** you through his **actions**.
- \* You no longer have to seek advice from the uninformed. Start your commitment to treatment and long-rang goals of health.
- \* You no longer have to hide the fact that you are seeking help. Start telling the addict that you are.
- \* You no longer have to nag, preach, coax or lecture. Start reporting his inappropriate actions to him.
- \* You no longer have to allow the addict to assault you or your children. Start protecting yourself.
- \* You no longer have to be a victim of addiction. Start being the victor through Christ Jesus.

*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Cor 15:57-58*

Ministry Needs ~ We need your prayers daily!

- Sponsors for men in the program, men in SLT and families in SLT
- Monthly donations    - Donations of musical instruments
- Donations of any working vehicles, golf carts, 4-wheelers, etc.

Dunklin Memorial Church  
3342 SW Hosanah Lane  
Okeechobee, FL 34974  
772-597-2841  
[www.dunklin.org](http://www.dunklin.org)