

DMC

Campfire

JULY 2014

Transformed into New Creations

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 2 Corinthians 5:17



Chuck Grier

I am 49 years old and I was in full blown addiction for 20 years of my life. When I was 14 years old my Dad committed suicide. This hurt me deeply and I thought I would never escape the pain that I felt. One year later I began to use drugs and alcohol and thought that I had found the solution to my problems. Over the next 20 years I used whatever I could get my hands on only to find myself even more miserable. I believed I was only hurting myself, but really I was hurting everyone I loved. They bailed me out of jails and prisons, where I told them I would stay sober, only to repeat the same process. I lost my marriage and abandoned my son. I had no self respect and no will to live; I was at my bottom. There was where I cried out to God. The next day I was evicted from my home, fired from my job and my truck was repossessed. I was homeless and hopeless. After making phone calls to try and find help, two weeks later I found myself at Dunklin. Since being here my life has made a one-hundred and eighty degree turn. In the Inner Healing portion of the program I had an encounter with Jesus Christ and was finally able to forgive my Daddy. I felt a sense of peace that I had never experienced before. Through His forgiveness I have been set free from all of the shame, pain, and guilt that had been choking the life out of me. My family has forgiven me for the things I have done in the past and we have been restored. I now live with a zeal for life and for serving the Lord. I owe my life to the Lord and to Dunklin for saving me. I desire to help others who struggle with addiction and plan on staying here for Stage 2 and SLT.



Artie Quinn

I come from 35 years of addiction. I managed to stay sober on and off but could never fully maintain sobriety. It wasn't until I realized that I had pushed all my loved ones away, and created a mess I couldn't get out of, that I cried out for help. God heard my cry and opened the door for me to come to Dunklin. Here I found what I had been missing the whole time, a relationship with Jesus Christ. Due to my long life of selfish living it was hard for me to see the Truth that was all around me when I first arrived, but then I had an encounter. While in small groups in Regen my teacher was trying desperately for me to see the mess I had created, but I simply could not see. All I heard at the time was "you're angry" and "your walls are up". When I looked up and saw the tears in his eyes as he spoke about my children, something changed inside. I was finally able to get rid of my defenses and allow God to begin building the foundation within me that had always been missing. I now know that I have truly learned to live. At the end of my journey here I am going back home to my family in South Carolina where I have committed to another year in SLT at Evans Training Center. Words cannot express my gratitude for the tools given to me here and for the reconciliation with my family. I will always consider Dunklin home.



Randy Miller

I came to Dunklin on July 22, 2013 scared, hopeless, and selfish. I come from an addiction to drugs and anything else that made me feel good. I was in college, had a nice house, nice car, and a great job, but none of that was satisfying for me. I always desired more and soon became heavily involved with drugs and alcohol. I pushed school aside and was focused on what was fun and what I wanted to do. I eventually dropped out of college and began to use more and more. I put on a mask that everything was great. On March 14, 2009, my brother was murdered. That's when I began going to church with my family. I started to run a youth group, help with Sunday services, and cook for the church, all the while going deeper and deeper into my addiction. I gave up on life and used my brother's death as an excuse to get high. In church I would collect the offering and steal it to go get high in the bathroom. Finally, everything started to get exposed. I lost my job, house, and car and had to live with my Mom. I began stealing from her, as well as my grandparents, until they had enough and kicked me out. I found myself living in the woods without the desire to even live at all. I tried to commit suicide, but God had other plans for me. Through my attempt I realized where my life had really gone. I called my Mom and had her take me to a doctor where I was then able to get in touch with Dunklin. Seven days later I arrived on camp. Since being here God has changed my view on life dramatically. He has given me a hope, purpose, and a true desire to live. He has changed my heart from wanting, to giving. He has restored my Mother and Grandparents to me. They respect the decisions I now make and are proud of me. Today the Lord gives me strength to allow Him to have full control and make the decisions for my life. I no longer look at my "mountains" as road blocks but as opportunity to trust Jesus and to grow closer to Him. Today I can say that I have an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and truly embrace that.



Daniel Fussell

I come from a 15 year addiction to drugs and alcohol. I grew up in a godly family who did their best to teach me morals, integrity, and good character. I was blessed to be married to a wonderful woman whom I had two children with. Throughout my addiction I turned my back on all of that. I have a 9 year old son, Cayson, who was afraid of the man I had become. My 2 year old daughter, Brinlee, didn't even know who I was. Prior to my time at Dunklin I had only seen her four times in her life. I pushed my wife to the point of divorce, and she did not even allow me around my children due to my lifestyle. I finally hit rock bottom and became homeless, lost, and desperate. On August 10, 2013, with no where to go and nobody to turn to, I realized where my life had ended up and cried out to the Lord. Within four days I was here at Dunklin. Since being here the Lord has not only done a work in me but in my family as well. My son is no longer afraid of me, but actually looks to me as his hero. And my daughter actually called me "Daddy" here for the first time. My family once again has joy and hope when they think about me. Most of all I have the desire to be the godly father and man the Lord has called me to be. I have hope, joy, and excitement about life I never before thought possible. I owe it all to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Tim Abadie

I am 23 years old and come from a ten year addiction to self. I had been given every opportunity by a tight and loving family, and I threw it all away. I had eventually lost everything, most of which was intentional. I lost my identity and became consumed by the pursuit of worldly pleasures. Finally God brought me to a place of such emptiness that it left me with one of two options; death or help. The Lord brought me to Dunklin and in the last ten months has completely transformed my heart. I fell in love with Jesus here and He has given me a new life, a new hope, and, most importantly, a new identity. I am proud to share how Jesus Christ has changed my life and restored my relationship with my family. I came here lonely, afraid, and lost. Now I leave confident, secure, and truly joyful. I owe my life to Him, who made all of this possible, Jesus Christ. I plan on furthering my commitment, here at Dunklin, by staying on for Stage 2 and SLT.



Ronny Brown

My addiction to drugs started when I was 16. However, my addiction to change the way I felt about myself started at a much younger age. I was unhappy with the way that I viewed myself, and drugs gave me a confidence, which later proved to be false, that I had never before experienced. As my addiction progressed, and I found myself in very dark places, I began to question what I had let my life become. I got to the point where I had just accepted that this was how my life was going to be. In early 2012 I found myself at my bottom. Baker Acted for the 3rd time and pretty much homeless, I was out of options. I asked for help, but was not ready for

Christ in my life. The last year of my life, before coming to Dunklin, was chaos. I hated God, if He was even real. If He was, I thought I had offended Him and He was punishing me. Through the help I was getting I got my family back, only to lose my Dad to cancer. I destroyed every relationship I had gained back through a relapse and found myself alone and suicidal again. But, because God is real and He loves me more than I could ever begin to understand, He brought me to Dunklin. Through being here I have learned to truly love others and receive love as well. I know God has a plan for my life. With all that I've gone through, I want to be a witness to His awesome and transforming power. The Lord has changed my heart since being here; through that process I have become transformed. I am a child of God!



John Spicer

I come from a 15 year addiction to drugs and alcohol. I'm from a single parent home and was left to do whatever I wanted. At a young age I joined a gang where I discovered drugs and alcohol. I ended up in juvenile programs and was on probation repeatedly. Trying to keep up with the older kids on the streets I began committing crimes, and I found myself facing a four year prison sentence at the age of 18. Getting out four years later I still wanted to live that same lifestyle, falling deeper into my addiction. In 2008 I was blessed with my daughter; I thought this would save me from my addiction. Three years later nothing had changed and I

found myself at my bottom. No family, no daughter, nowhere to go; I had pushed everyone away due to my lifestyle. I found some people who had attended Dunklin through the church I would go to occasionally. I made the call and found myself here August 26 of 2013. Since being here I found Jesus Christ and allowed Him to fill the deep hole in my heart I have felt all my life. Through my obedience He has restored me and my relationship with my daughter. Reconciliation has taken place between my daughter's mother and I, and we are now engaged to be married. Our family is being rebuilt with God as our foundation. The tools I have learned are priceless and through Dunklin, God has saved my life.



Lance Olsen

I was arrested for the first time when I was 13 years old for selling drugs at school and soon after was expelled. I had been using drugs, alcohol, and tobacco five years prior to this event and had no plans on stopping after it. At 14 I jumped deep into addiction and didn't slow down until I went to prison at 22. Over the next three years I spent my time only getting worse; prison didn't teach me a thing. I always felt so empty and alone. I was hateful toward anything or anyone that attempted to show me love, and hated Jesus for the way my life turned out. At 26 my wife and I had our first son, Lance, and rather than seeing it as a blessing, I used it to fuel my addiction even further. Not seeing a way out of the darkness I had put myself in, I started looking for help. The help I sought was only by man's standards; through it I was told I was bipolar and just given even more drugs to "help". I was able to maintain a form of sobriety this way and was blessed with my second son, Brandon. I soon went back to my old ways and began progressively getting worse; I just wanted to die. In April of 2013 I was arrested again. I found myself sitting in jail, detoxing, looking at a ten year sentence, slowly losing my wife and children. A close friend gave my wife a Bible to bring to me with a letter inside. The letter read that Jesus loved me and so did they, that they knew of a place where the Lord did powerful works in men's lives like me, and that I should begin praying to make it there. This place was Dunklin. On May 13 of 2013 I made the first good choice in many years and arrived here. Since being here I have learned who Jesus is and how much He loves me. Through this process, the empty void I had felt for so long has begun to be healed. My family has a

REAL life for the first time ever, and that is only made possible through Jesus being our foundation. The Lord did not restore my marriage here; He gave us a new one. Having learned true love and respect, my wife and I have decided to renew our wedding vows. I am so grateful for the new life Jesus has given us.



Steven Snaguski

I am 27 years old and come from a 12 year addiction. I began drinking and smoking when I was seven and by the time I was 12 I was using every drug I could get my hands on. By 18 I had already done five years in jail due to my choices to use. That did not stop me though; I continued down that path all the way to the point of finding myself in such despair I couldn't take it anymore. I was tired of hurting my wife and my two children; that's when I turned to Dunklin. I initially came here just to get my family back, but God had other plans and has done so much more.

When I first got here I was hopeless and a wreck. God started putting the pieces back together for me once I truly submitted to His will, not mine. My wife and I began taking the marriage class which not only restored our marriage, but made it stronger than ever. In being here for the past nine months the Lord has given me a relationship with my wife and children that is unreal. Even greater than that, I have a relationship with Him that I never before knew possible. This has been the hardest, but best thing, I have ever done in my life. The peace and joy that I have today only come from Jesus, whom I know lives in my heart. I am so thankful for that Truth and for Dunklin making it possible.



Joshua Pinkerton

All throughout my childhood I was rebellious. I found it fun to disobey the authority figures put in my life, such as my parents and teachers. This caused a lot of strain and turmoil at home and I began to resent my parents for their correction. I used my resentments as an excuse to justify my defiant behavior and became spiteful towards those who loved me. I hurt my family, breaking their hearts through my choices and actions, and left home at an early age. Full of shame and guilt, I used drugs, alcohol, and women to cover up how I really felt inside. Living this life style quickly brought me to my bottom where I found myself friendless, without a job, homeless and broke.

Unable to deal with my circumstances, I attempted suicide and nearly succeeded. This brought me to my senses, at least for a season, and I got off drugs and moved back home. For a while things were good and I was happy to be alive. However, I was still carrying the shame and guilt from my past and soon began drinking again. The intervention of my loving parents, and faithful prayers from a godly mother, brought me to Dunklin on September 11 of 2013. I'd arrived a broken and hopeless man who tried to push the whole world away. I found the love of Jesus Christ through the acceptance of Dunklin. Being surrounded by those who were just as hurt as I was, I was finally able to let go of the shame and guilt, and accept the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Today I have a hope and purpose. I have learned to walk with the Lord and not only hear, but heed, His voice. I stand firm on the promises of God and have true peace in the knowledge that He is always with me.

Upcoming Events

- Graduation & Baptism
- July 20th & 27th

Ministry Needs ~ We need your prayers daily!

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

Dunklin Memorial Church
3342 SW Hosanah Lane
Okeechobee, FL 34974