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Phone: 256-616-1522

Fax: 256-686-0136

E-mail:

ronniecrocker1@gmail.com

Webpage:

www.projectrescue.org

STATES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF OPIATE PRESCRIPTIONS



The states with the highest percentage of their population using prescription opioids are located predominately in the American Bible Belt! The Center for Disease Control says Alabama (the buckle of the Bible Belt) is the highest painkiller prescribing state, with 143 Opioid prescriptions per 100 people.

An estimated 6,741,400 persons were supervised by adult correctional systems in the United States at year-end 2015 (BJS). About 1 in 37 adults (or 2.7 percent of all adults) in the United States was under some form of correctional supervision. An estimated 2,173,800 persons were incarcerated in America by year-end 2015.

It has been accurately expressed that *“Addiction is a family disease, one person may use, but the whole family suffers”*.

The churches of Christ in America are also suffering from the grandest theft of all! Since 90% of addictions begin in the teen years, the devil is stealing (John 10:10 & 1 Peter 5:8) the minds of our future elders, deacons, preachers, and their wives!!



Galatians 6:10 describes the strategy of Project Rescue: “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” We win souls to the Lord and souls back to the Lord!

With the prayers and financial support of Christians and congregations, Project Rescue is restoring (Galatians 6:1) lives ruined by sin. At the same time we are doing “good to all” America, by addressing this addiction scourge that is taxing our government and tearing American families apart.

Most importantly, we are serving “the household of faith,” as we serve as a bridge back (James 5:19,20) for our prodigal sons (Luke 15), husbands, and fathers.

A Strange Turn of Events

By Jeanie Crocker

Here's a story that will pull at your heart strings. For quite a while now, a beautiful grandmother (who is a member of the Beltline church of Christ where we worship), has been talking to Ronnie about her 42 year-old grandson. Wes was in an automobile accident 17 years ago. His injuries resulted in brain surgery. When all was said and done, he was left totally blind at the age of 25.

Eventually his father bought a house for him, and Wes lived alone in the darkness. With the help of his very supportive family, he learned to function and care for himself. I can only imagine how difficult this major life change was for Wes. The adjustments he had to make were beyond comprehension after living 25 years as a normal, functioning individual.

In time, the drug world learned of his situation and decided to keep him company. He suddenly had all kinds of attention and companionship. They used Wes for their own purposes, and turned his house into drug central. After a number of parties (some involving police intervention), the family became frustrated and searched for other answers for Wes. They called Ronnie who went to visit them and advise them about how to handle the problem.

I'm sure you are beginning to see where I'm going with this. Wes has now been with us for a month and is thriving in his program. He has a winning way that makes everyone love him immediately. Every time I see him, he tells me I'm really looking great today. A couple of Sundays ago, he came to me after church and asked if there was anything he could do for me. He would be glad to drive me home. He is quite a character who has learned to laugh in the face of adversity and to soldier on with a positive attitude. He's an inspiration to us all.



The moral to this story is, even with debilitating issues in their lives, these men can overcome with the help of God and a positive attitude.

Wes's presence at Project Rescue has not only helped him, but it has also been encouraging to the other members who have stepped out of their own stories of woe to help Wes make his way to the cafeteria. God is good all the time. When we trust Him with all our hearts, He will direct our paths.



Attention Kroger customers!

We have seen firsthand the results of signing up with the Kroger Community Rewards program. We recently received a check for \$47.26. This may not seem like much to you, but it is useful money we didn't have before.

If you are enrolled in this program to help Project Rescue, it seems you will need to re-enroll, August 1st thru 31st. This is required once a year.

If you're not enrolled, this is a perfect time for you to visit the Kroger.com website and sign up to help Project Rescue. Our number is **94193**.

**POLISHING THE
PULPIT**

Lord willing, Ronnie and Jeanie Crocker will be attending PTP again this year. We will have a Project Rescue display booth. Last year, there were over 3,800 Christians in attendance from 41 states and 5 countries. If you are among the attendees next month, look us up at the Project Rescue display. We would love to see you.

**Every Weakness
you have is an opportunity
for God to show**

His strength in your life.

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9

Again we want to say

*Thank
you*



Your prayers, encouragement and financial support for this program are so vital to our success.

We desperately need more monthly support from individuals and congregations.

We received a call today from an elder who had heard of our work. He wanted more details so he could present it in an elders' meeting Sunday afternoon. May his tribe increase!

If you are dealing with addiction in your congregation or in your family, you know how it destroys everything in its path.

Addiction in this country has reached epidemic proportions and has become an emergency situation. Chances are, you need our help, and there is no doubt we need yours. Together we can make a difference in the lives of men who have been overtaken in this very destructive lifestyle.

Ronnie Crocker will be happy to come to your congregation and speak concerning this great American mission field. You can reach him any time, day or night, at (256) 616-1522.

May God help us all as we seek Him for the answer!