

October/November 2018

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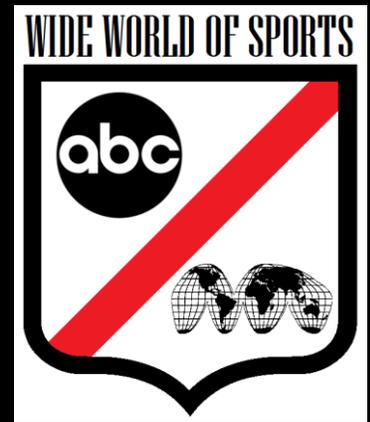
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The Thrill of Victory, and the Agony of Defeat!

In the 1970s, ABC's Wide World of Sports transmitted great sporting events right into our homes! We enjoyed the Olympics, World Series, Super Bowls, and big boxing matches. This show began with exciting music and video clips, as the announcer said, *"Spanning the globe to bring you the constant variety of sport! The thrill of victory, and the agony of defeat! The human drama of athletic competition. This is ABC's Wide World of Sports!"*



For year 2018, we have felt the agony of defeat as 21 out of 49 Project Rescue members relapsed and left the program. One of these overdosed and barely survived. Two previous members died in their addiction.

The apostle Paul described his evangelistic victories as his "joy and crown" in Philippians 4:1. The thrill of his evangelistic victories ("crown") in Philippi surely motivated Paul to endure his defeats and keep on keeping on!

Our joy and crown for 2018 are the 28 out of 49 men who are continuing to be transformed by the renewing of their minds! It is thrilling to serve as a bridge, welcoming these prodigal (drug addicted) sons, grandsons, brothers, fathers, and husbands back from the far country! It is exciting to see these souls being reconciled back to God and the Lord's church. It is a joy to watch them continuing to assimilate back into their families, the workplace, and society as a whole!

As fishers of men, we all keep our joy and crown on the shelf of our memories. When our hearts break over a soul who got away (chose death over life), we pull a "joy and crown" off the shelf to raise our spirits. The thrill of our victories helps us to endure the agony of our defeats. Our joy and crown keeps us keeping on!



Thanksgiving has come and gone. Several of the guys were able to go home for the holiday, but those of us who stayed behind had a good time together with lots of food and goodies.

We all shared the things we are thankful for, which was the most special part of the day. The thoughts from these guys really touch our hearts.



Principles For Parenting An Addict

The parable of the Prodigal Son provides a principle for parenting an addicted adult child. Instead of rescuing his son from hunger and homelessness, the father allowed him to suffer to the point of eating pig's food. It was at this low point that the boy "came to himself" (Luke 15:17) and repented. An addict will not repent until the pain of the consequences becomes stronger than the pleasure of the drug. This is a principle for parenting an addict!

Because the Corinthians were enabling a wayward member in his sin, they were commanded, "Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (1 Corinthians 5:5). This severing of support was designed to sting, so the pain his sin was causing surpassed the pleasure his sin was providing. This principle for parenting an addict is extremely hard to follow!

When the Corinthian church member repented, they were instructed to reconnect the support they severed. "This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him" (2 Corinthians 2:6-8). We also witness parents who allow anger and resentment to keep them from heeding this principle. Therefore, their child turns back to his addiction.

Emotional blackmail is a tool often used by an addict. He may even threaten his parents with all kinds of frightening things if they don't bend to his wishes. Wise parents are able to separate their son from the addiction. They realize it is not him talking but the addiction. *Christian love (AGAPE) is not an impulse from the feelings, it does not always run with the natural inclinations (Vine's Dictionary).*

It is wonderful to join forces with parents who have learned to heed these AGAPE principles. The chances of their child overcoming his addiction greatly increases!!



SEASON OF GIVING

During this special season of love and good will, may we be the first to wish you and your families a wonderful and joyous Christmas. Hopefully, you are looking forward to times spent together with family and friends.

Unfortunately, it is an especially difficult time of year for many who are suffering from loneliness, loss, illness and hardships of various kinds. Among that group are so many in our country who are suffering from addiction. Not only are **they** suffering but so are their families and loved ones who are missing them at the table for Christmas dinner.

On a regular basis, we hear the grief and concern in the voices of loved ones who call on behalf of their addicted son, grandson, brother, husband or father. It is our constant desire to offer them encouragement and hope for better things. Our program is designed to provide recovery through an atmosphere of love, discipline and spiritual guidance.

Not only is this a huge physical challenge, but it is a huge financial challenge. We house, feed and provide for them for a year. Along with that, we provide professional counseling along with their Bible studies to give them the tools to overcome their addictions. Would you consider helping us in this great endeavor?

During this special time of giving, please include Project Rescue. We are a 501©(3) corporation so your contribution is tax deductible. For your convenience, our web page (www.projectrescue.org) has a PayPal account, or you can mail your check to Project Rescue, 179 Cave Spring Road, Decatur, AL 35603. Your help would be so greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

To all of you who are regular contributors to Project Rescue, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued prayers and support. We couldn't make it without you!

We wish you God's blessings and the very best of times during this holiday season.

A very Merry Christmas from all of us at Project Rescue!

