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Frank Parker is the Gospel preacher who taught me the Gospel in prison, which I heard, believed and obeyed on June 1st, 1986.

Frank visited us at Project Rescue for 6 days last week. He taught two classes a day and met 1-on-1 with about six members a day. The guys are still talking about how much they learned!

Sitting in some of Frank's classes last week brought me back to 1986, when I first met him. At this point in my life, fifteen years of addiction had already cost me my family, freedom and everything else. Also, I had already wasted two and a half years of my sentence doing nothing but time.

The AA Big book led me to the Bible. Then, I remember the day I put my hand on a Bible, which I did not understand, and made a vow to a God I did not know. I promised to read it, write down my thoughts, and try to understand it.

At this time in my life, I only knew the Baby Jesus story from Christmas.

I began to attend all the church services the prison offered, which included Frank's Tuesday night class.

Hearing different teachings from the preachers about how to be saved confused and frustrated me. Then, I remember asking Frank, "Which church should I join when I get released?"

In the days and months that followed, Frank led me from darkness and ignorance into Light and Truth. For the next two and a half years of my prison sentence, I spent 80 to 90% of every day praying, reading, studying and doing the Bible.

When I think of what could have happened if Frank was not at that prison when I "came to myself," it gives me a chill: I would probably have died in my sins, my whole family (dad, mom, two brothers, two sisters, and my son) might never have been saved from their sins, the thousands I have reached may not have ever heard the Gospel, and the many who have found hope through Project Rescue could still be suffering in their addictions.

I thank God that Gospel preacher Frank Parker found me on the trash heap of humanity in that prison, and showed me that Jesus had a special place in His heart for even a cockroach convict like Ronnie Crocker!



Lessons Learned from Loving an Addict

Loving a drug addict can and will consume your every thought. Watching their physical deterioration and emotional detachment to everything will make you the most tired insomniac alive.

You will stand in the doorway of their bedroom and plead with them that you “just want them back.” You will wonder if today might be the last day of their life. If you watch the person you love disappear right in front of your eyes long enough, you will start to dissolve too.

Drug addiction has the largest ripple effect that I have ever witnessed firsthand. It causes parents to outlive their children. It causes jail time and homelessness. It causes sisters to mourn their siblings. It causes nieces to never meet their aunts. It causes an absence before the exit.

You will see your loved one walking and talking, but the truth is, you will lose them far before they actually succumb to their demons; which, if they don't find recovery, is inevitable. You will learn to hate the drug but love the addict.

You will begin to accept that you need to separate who the person once was with who they are now. It is not the person who uses, but the addict. It is not the person who steals to support their habit, but the addict. It is not the person who spews obscenities at their family, but the addict. It is not the person who lies, but the addict. And yet, sadly... it is not the addict who dies, but the person.

Adapted from an article by Alicia Cook



Too many Americans today are caught in this hopelessness, as 91 persons a day are dying from an opioid overdose. At Project Rescue we are witnessing how God is turning despair into hope! We are seeing “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” setting addicts free from “the law of sin and death” (Rom. 8:2). It is a thrill to watch the addicts dissolve right before our eyes, and the persons reappear right before the eyes of their moms, dads, brothers, sisters, grandparents, wives, and children!!



It was a happy day last week when Don Walker from the Trenton church of Christ in Georgia, showed up with a load of meat for the guys! There's nothing like coolers full of beef, sausage, bacon, pork chops and even some tomatoes and strawberries to brighten up this place. One thing we can say for sure about these guys – they love to eat.

How we appreciate Don and one of the members of his congregation who came and encouraged the whole group! That meat will definitely be put to good use.

Don is pictured here with our cook, Dora.

I mentioned in an earlier newsletter how I was spending a few months traveling to share the Project Rescue Story. It has been a busy few weeks as I have had the opportunity to visit several congregations in our local area as well as a few out of town.

Several of the men have traveled with me on various occasions, and a couple times the whole group has gone with me. Understandably, they especially like to go when the church is hosting a pot luck.



I appreciate all the congregations who have received me with such kindness and concern about Project Rescue. Here are a few of those:

- Petersville church of Christ – Florence, AL
- Grant Street church of Christ – Decatur, AL
- Flint church of Christ – Decatur, AL
- Midway church of Christ – Moulton, AL
- Covington church of Christ – Covington, TN
- Danville church of Christ – Decatur, AL
- LaFayette church of Christ – LaFayette, GA

The remaining months of this year will take me to the Neel church of Christ in Danville, AL, the Rainbow church of Christ in Gadsden, AL, the Lake City church of Christ in Lake City, FL, the Pritchett church of Christ in Texas and the Forest Park church of Christ in the Atlanta area.

Our sincerest thanks to all who share with us in big and small ways as we battle to bring struggling souls back to God.