



PRAISE REPORT **May 4, 2016**

ACTC - MEN'S HALFWAY HOUSE

When I was released from prison, I spent six months at a halfway house, the first step in my transition back into society. I was required to be employed, pay rent, attend treatment sessions and follow the rules of the house. It was more difficult than prison!!!!

Living in a room with ten or more men, on narrow bunk beds, with drugs and alcohol being smuggled into the facility, with theft of my property, and constant noise; made it very challenging. At one point, I became very sick. My doctor prescribed medicine to help. Even though I was sick, I had to go to work. I worked as a checker at Safeway. Their rule was that if I missed work for three days, sick or not, I was fired. As I prepared to leave for work, I was informed that I had been placed on restriction and could not leave the facility. They would not tell me why or how long the restriction would last. The first day passed with no explanation. The second day, there still was no explanation. My case manager denied my request to meet with her. I knew that if I didn't go to work the next day, I would be fired. That could result in being regressed back to prison. The more frustrated I became, the more I prayed!!!! Early the next morning, I was called into my case manager's office. She then explained that I had tested positive for cocaine. For the last two days, she had been working with my doctor and the manufacturer to confirm that the medicine I took could result in a false positive for cocaine. She informed me that this had been confirmed and I could return to work.

I had truly been blessed. Most case managers would not have done anything; would have assumed that I was using drugs, and would have immediately sent me back to prison. My case manager was a strong Christian woman, who believed that I would never have used drugs.

Every week, several people from Smokey Hill Vineyard Church would come do a Bible study on Thursday night and take men to church on Sunday. This was my salvation, my escape from the harsh reality of life at a halfway house. We became close friends and they helped me to continue to grow in my relationship with GOD. I did not know then, but this is where GOD planted the seed in my heart to start a prison ministry.

Once released from prison, I spent 18 months on parole. During this time, I rented a house in Highlands Ranch and started attending CHCC. I attended Sunday service, Tuesday men's group and two men's Bible study groups. My spiritual growth, my relationship with GOD matured so much during this time. Upon being released from parole, after much prayer, meditation, and consulting with other people involved in various prison ministries, including Charles Colson, I felt called to start a Bible study at a local Halfway House. Blessed with the assistance of Bill and Marcia Watts, who had been involved in various prison ministry programs for over 20 years, we began 4 years ago, at ACTC.

The ministry progressed from a Bible study, to taking men to worship at CHCC, mountain adventure trips, and various activities at ACTC.

Today, this ministry is now led by Charles Fredricks, an ex-offender, who is still on parole, and an active member of CHCC. With GOD's blessing, under Charles leadership, this ministry is flourishing, as we average over 20 men per Bible study, with 10 men regularly attending CHCC, and 15 men going on the Mountain trips.

I ask that you pray for Charles, the men of ACTC, and for GOD's continued blessing for this ministry.

GOD Bless,

Skip Starr