

I Felt Something Different Happening Inside Me



I grew up in Puerto Rico. I was born into a broken family – my dad was an alcoholic – it created a violent family situation. When I was 15, life was hard, and I got into hard drugs. I was injecting heroin and drinking alcohol 7 days a week. I did this for years. Eventually, I came to the United States to find a better life. But I continued to do drugs in America. I was in and out of prison, treatment and rehab centers in both Puerto Rico and the U.S..

One day, after a very bad fight with my wife, I felt I lost everything and felt hopeless. I began walking and found myself in front of a library, looking for a place to inject heroin. I met the librarian there

and he said "I know where you can go" and gave me

\$10 to detox. But I used the money to shoot up. I am not sure how it happened but I was taken to detox at 3am. While I was there I saw people who were homeless and jobless and I kept asking myself and to no-one, "Why am I here?" I stayed there – in Nuestra

Clinica for 7 days and while there and feeling bored, I listened to a preacher tell his story of how he lost everything. It captured my attention because it was my story too.

However, he spoke of hope and said "nothing is impossible." That drew me in. I remember how bright his clothes were. I thought to myself, I want to wear those clothes! I wanted desperately to change my life but I was afraid I would fall again. I wanted nothing to do with religion but I felt drawn to attend my wife's church the following week. People prayed for me, and I felt something different happening inside me. I decided to accept Jesus and God's calling for me. It is still very emotional to recall that day; I felt God transform my heart. Thankfully, I never craved for drugs or alcohol since. I returned to

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"Sustainable recovery means a new relationship with self, God, Family and others."



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Help Us Achieve Our Fundraising GOAL!



To donate visit www.goalproject.org or send a check in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your trust and support as we work together to reduce addictions in our community.

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F.A.I.T.H. Initiatives Program Update

Supported by:  **COMPASS MARK**
SCIENCE-BASED ADDICTION PREVENTION 



What is F.A.I.T.H. Initiatives?

F.A.I.T.H. Initiatives - Face Addiction with Intervention and Training for Healing assists congregations build sustainable team Addiction Prevention and Recovery Support ministries & programs. This program is funded in part by the Lancaster County Drug & Alcohol Commission.

In partnership with Compass Mark, Faith Partners, LLC, and local professional presenters, GOAL delivers the evidenced based program so that our community have:

- fewer people experience alcohol and other drug problems;
- more people receive help in earlier stages of the addiction disease;
- family members receive support and assistance in living a healthier lifestyle; and,
- congregations be active in local advocacy, prevention, educational, and recovery support efforts.

To learn more, contact Paige Harker at paigeharker@goalproject.org, 717-824-3310.

GOAL is in year 3 of the F.A.I.T.H. Initiatives Program. This year, we are focused on bringing addiction awareness to the Hispanic community. Working with Celso Mesias, Prevention Specialist, and lead presenter, Steven Schedler, Executive Director of Samaritan Counseling, GOAL held the first of the 3-part series on February 27, 2021. Attending were leaders from Iglesia Hogaza de Paz, Iglesia Pentecostal Peniel, Iglesia Cristiana Carismatica, Iglesia Rohrerstown Mennonite Church, Bright Side Missionary Church, Habecker Church, and Assembly of Christiana Church.

Addiction and Family Interactions Workshop

On May 22, 2021 Joel Jakubowski will be presenting the Addiction and Family Interactions Workshop for 6 PCB credits at Living Stones Vineyard Church in Peach Bottom, PA. In this in-depth workshop, participants will learn the myths of addiction; the connection between the addiction process as it relates to neurobio-

logical functioning and its correlation with biblical principles and the change process; family roles and co-dependencies; understand enabling behaviors, types and context to the behavioral life of those in addiction and its effect on family members. **To register go to www.goalproject.org/training/.**



Mason-Dixon Ministerium is Looking Ahead

By Bob Hoopert, Ministry Chair

Like everyone else, we are looking forward to start meeting in person again. The Mason-Dixon Ministerium was on a good roll until COVID hit. The Ministerium, an offshoot of the Mason-Dixon Anti-Drug Coalition, consists of about a dozen local churches in southeastern York County PA and northern Harford County MD. The Coalition is focused on fighting the ongoing drug abuse epidemic in the PA and MD communities that surround the Delta area. Several members of the Magisterium attended a series of GOAL training classes on how our faith communities can support folks who are suffering from Substance Use Disorders (SUD). Through the training and out of the surveys that we took from five of our member congregations, we started



building a Prevention and Recovery Ministry. We identified two main goals that we hoped to achieve. First, we wanted to help make our congregations aware of the current drug problems, the importance of prevention, and the available options for treatment and recovery. Second, we wanted to help our congregations to realize the importance of having warm and welcoming place, for anyone who is suffering from or in recovery from SUD and their loved ones. As we look ahead, we are eager to reschedule our vaping presentation and finding other topics to educate our community.

The Coalition scheduled a free Narcan distribution event in March and a local Drug Take Back Day in April 2021.

Restoring Families of Addiction

Joel Jakubowski, Director of Men's Program Director, Potters House, is presenting a 2-hour ZOOM workshop for the next 12 months on topics around addiction and recovery. The workshops are offered on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 6-8pm.

The next workshop is scheduled on May 12th - Addiction 101; June 9 is on Breaking the Cycle: Hope for Children of Addicted Parents. **To register go to www.goalproject.org/training.**

I Felt Something Different Continued from cover page

that library 15 years later after I became a pastor and the same person was there who gave me the \$10. I felt God say to me that the library will become a church. He told me to care for the homeless and the hun-

gry. So I did. I began working on building the church starting in the bathroom – the last place I had taken drugs. - *Pastor Carlos Soto, Iglesia Hogaza De Paz*

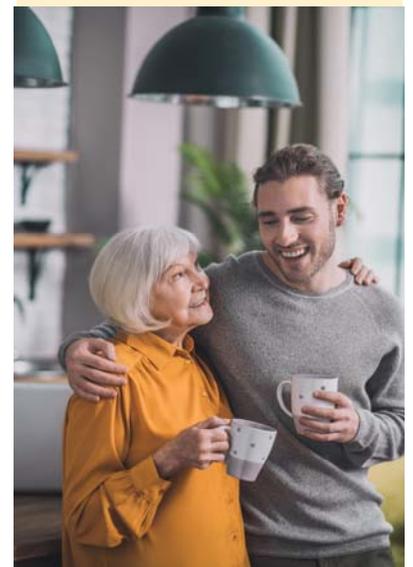
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- Thank you.



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SAVE THE DATE | NOV.9 2021



GOAL is celebrating our 30th anniversary of *growth* on **November 9, 2021** at Shady Maple. As we look ahead to future opportunities, we are reminded of the many valued relationships that helped us *thrive* the last 3 decades. GOAL would like to take the time to let you know how thankful we are for your support and your partnership.

We would love for you to join us and celebrate this momentous milestone.

For tickets go to: www.goalproject.org



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Upcoming Events

- May 12th - Session 3 Addictions 101, 6-8pm,
- May 22nd – Addiction and Family Interactions Peach Bottom, 9-4pm
- June 9th -Session 4 Breaking the Cycle: Hope for Children of Addicted Parents, 6-8pm,
- June 11-12 – FAITH Initiatives: Part 2: TEAM Development, 9- 4pm
- June 26—FAITH Initiatives Collaborative BBQ

See **GOAL's** website for a detailed list of upcoming events. www.goalproject.org

For Local Resources go to: <https://goalproject.org/get-help/>



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313 W Liberty Street
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