



# U-Turn For Christ New Jersey



U-Turn For Christ New Jersey Men's Ranch

## Ministry Update – April 2016

“And the Lord said to Moses, I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt”  
—Exodus 11:1

A plague has come upon our nation. I know that may startle some of you, but the truth is opioid addiction is ravishing our country. In fact, drug overdose is the leading form of accidental death in America today and most of these deaths are the result of opioid addiction. Opioids are a class of drugs that includes heroin. Most of us understand the lethal attributes of heroin, but many don't understand that a number of commonly prescribed drugs, such as oxycodone, codeine, morphine, fentanyl and others, are also in this class. Doctors often prescribe these opioids to manage their patient's pain, but it is staggering how quickly a dependency develops. Even when taken as prescribed it only takes a short time before a patient becomes reliant upon these powerful drugs. I have met many full-blown heroin addicts who told me that they got started by taking a prescription from a doctor. Between 2013 and 2015, more than 5,500 people died from fentanyl overdose, alone. The number of those who died from heroin was more than twice that. The supply of heroin that is flooding into our schools and cities is the most potent we have ever seen, about 98% pure! A few years ago 40-50% purity was the norm. Indeed, this is a deadly plague.

Some days the weight of this seems more than I can bear. I have been to way to many funerals, hospitals, and jails due to this scourge. I'm tired of seeing so many young lives being destroyed. But I was recently reminded of why God has raised up this ministry. Earlier this month my wife received an excited and very long text from a dear friend. As she read it, we both rejoiced. Her friend said she had the most amazing day! She saw a neighbor, who she has been praying for years for, standing on her front porch RESTORED from addiction. When she found out he was one of our U-Turn graduates, she just had to share this praise report. She wrote, "You know when you think someone is hopeless...today I am reminded that there is always hope in Jesus! Prayer Changes Everything!!!!"

I am so thankful for that reminder and encouragement. Through the power of prayer and Jesus Christ we can win this war on addiction, *one soul at a time*. So, I am asking you to join with us in praying for our nations youth, and for a halt to this awful plague that is robbing us of our greatest resource. PRAYER CHANGES THINGS!

"This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."  
— Mark 9:29

God Bless,  
Pastor Kevin

### Pastor's Heart

At U-Turn for Christ we teach the men that they can be freed from the bondage of their sin through Christ, if they want to be.

The first step to becoming free from the burden of sin, is of course realizing the tremendous debt we owe—it is a price we could never pay.

The good news is that someone else has already paid our debt—Jesus Christ. He took our place and we are redeemed by His death and resurrection.

Our part, and this is a very crucial part of our restoration, is to trust in Him and accept His free gift of eternal life. Our sins, past, present, and future have all been paid for, freedom restoration is ours when we choose to walk with Jesus Christ.

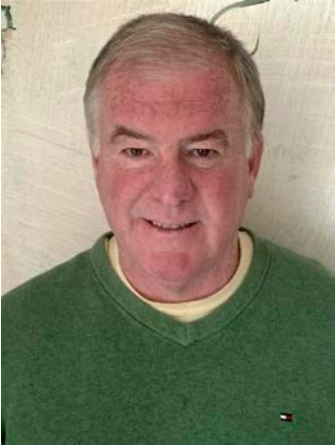
### Where you going to get a better deal than this?

"Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works" — Titus 2:14



Pastor Kevin

## Andy Kelly - Testimony



I grew up in a loving and close-knit, Irish American family—the fourth of five children. I have many fond memories of my childhood years in Toms River, New Jersey. I attended Catholic Church with my family, and I am grateful for the Christian values that were instilled in my life during that time. It was a strong foundation.

My world was shattered at the age of twenty-two when my brother died in a tragic car accident, while I was away at college. I was devastated by his loss. My brother was my best friend. When I returned to school five days after his funeral, I began relying on alcohol to get me through. That is when I turned my back on God.

Over the next twenty years, I moved to Pennsylvania and built a successful career in physical education and coaching. However, during that time my drinking also progressively increased. In 2010, a friend invited me to a church function and I tried to re-establish a relationship with God, but alcohol was my god. That is when my life began spiraling out of control.

Over the next few years I lost many close friendships and eventually my career. When I was at my lowest point some Christian friends encouraged me to get help. That is when I learned about U-Turn for Christ New Jersey. I entered the program at the beginning of 2016.

At U-Turn, I am surrounded by men who are seeking freedom from addiction through Christ. I have also met strong Christian men who have walked this road before me, and helped me to find my way through a committed relationship with God. I recently graduated phase one and will be staying on for phase two. My desire is to use what I have learned to help others. I have been asked to serve in leadership in the house, helping the new guys who are coming in. I believe I am utilizing God's gifts and fulfilling His will for me by sharing my experiences with fellow addicts.

I turned my back on God many years ago, but He never turned His back on me. I know He led me to this place and I trust that He will continue the work He has begun in me. My life verse for this season is Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God to those who are called according to His purposes." I still have many fences to mend due to my addiction, but U-Turn has given me hope. Today I know that I can live a life that is pleasing to God, help others, and experience joy and fulfillment. Life is getting better!

## Ways U Can Get Involved

If you would like to come alongside this ministry there are three important ways you can help.

First and foremost we ask that you would **pray** for the lives of the men we are ministering to, and for their families. PRAYER CHANGES THINGS!

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you" - John 7:7*

Another way you can help is through **financial support**. U-Turn for Christ is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. We receive no outside funding and rely totally on donations. If you'd like to support us financially, you can send a tax-deductible donation to: U-Turn for Christ NJ, PO Box 286, Allenhurst, NJ 07711.

*"The generous soul will be made rich" - Proverbs 11:25*

Finally, **let us help you!** If we can come alongside you or someone you love who is struggling with addiction, **please call us**. We are here to offer the help and hope that is found in Jesus Christ. That is what we do!

*"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted" - Galatians 6:1*

## Praise & Prayer

### Praise Reports

- M. A. & J.'s Phase 1 graduations
- S – freedom from drugs; wife's pregnancy
- Start of Women's Ministry prayer fellowship.
- Provisions for April's bills

### Prayer Requests

- Abundant food delivery from local food bank.
- EJ's return from Patmos
- Restoration of marriages and families.
- Men would grow closer to Jesus & find lasting freedom from the bondage of addiction in Him.
- Employment & restoration for those graduating in May.
- A new ministry vehicle.
- Provision for May's bills

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