



U-Turn For Christ New Jersey



U-Turn For Christ New Jersey Men's Ranch

Ministry Update – May 2016

It's been an amazing month. I'm excited to share some of the highlights with you. We had **four men graduate** from Phase One this month, and those who decided to stay on for Phase Two have already found jobs and are fully committed to completing another six months of discipleship. It is a blessing to watch the transformation that is happening in these men. Thank you Jesus!

We finished planting the **"U-Turn Garden"** and it is incredible. It is over 100 feet by 100 feet and filled with a variety of fruits and vegetables, some that I have never heard of before! I am hoping that as the men work in the garden, it will be a great illustration to them of the new life we have in Christ. As we allow the Lord to cultivate the seed of faith planted in our hearts, our lives will also become fruitful and begin to provide nourishment to others, just like this garden. **"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples"** (John 15:8).

The men have also been busy working around the property, and, YES, they even found time to open the pool! They have had several opportunities to serve at local churches as well, assisting Pastors with ministry projects. In return the men are blessed with lunch and a time of devotion with godly men.

Last, but not least, we are excited to announce that the **U-Turn For Christ NJ website** is complete! Thanks to Andrew from KFR Communication for making this a reality! We are hoping the website will be a way for many to learn more about the ministry, download ministry materials, share prayer requests, and safely donate online. The address is www.uturn4Christnj.com. Please "stop by" and check it out. We would LOVE comments and suggestions, but most of all please pray that the Lord will use this website to help those in need to find freedom from addiction through Christ.

God Bless,
Pastor Kevin

Thanks to Pastor Brian McDaniels (Cross to Light Ministries, Haiti) and Pastor Chris McCarrick (Cornerstone Calvary Chapel, Howell, NJ) for dropping by to share during one of our Thursday night Bible studies.



Pastor's Heart

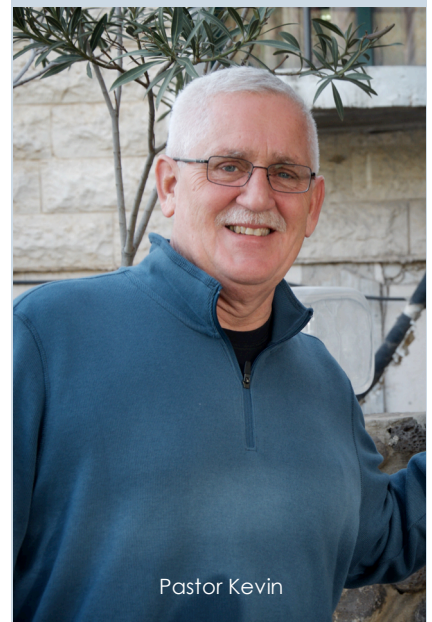
As I write this column my heart is holding onto and rejoicing in the apostle Paul's exhortation to "not grow weary in doing good." By God's grace, June 1 marks my 22nd year of sobriety and I am so grateful to the Lord for sustaining me, and for fulfilling His promise to "restore what the locusts have eaten." I share this with you not to brag, but to encourage and remind you that God is able to restore your life, too.

I have been blessed to experience His restoration first hand, and I have also seen His hand of mercy at work in the lives of so many who have come through the door of U Turn for Christ NJ.

Look to Him today! He is the **author and finisher of your life** and He is willing and able to do a mighty work in your life if you want Him to.

On those days when all seems lost, remember, **"do not loose heart."**

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not loose heart.
—Galatians 6:9



Pastor Kevin

Josh Caleen - Testimony



Although I grew up in a home that was far from Christian, my parents tried to instill discipline into me, but I didn't like it. So at the age of 17, I took my life into my own hands and left home. At that time, life became all about doing whatever I wanted to do. I was totally focused on my own happiness and indulging my flesh, even if it meant taking others down in order to accomplish my goals. I managed to cruise through my twenties without any serious consequences, but I didn't see the hole I was digging and how it was going to swallow me up.

When I was 30, I found a whole new form of happiness called Percocet. Chasing the feeling I got from that drug became my new pursuit, and led me to Oxycodone and eventually heroin. To support my addiction I began to create schemes and cheat people out of money. Eventually everything caught up with me and I was arrested and indicted. At this point, I had a beautiful girlfriend, Marie, who chose to stay with me despite the chaos. We had two children together and two more from Marie's previous marriage. The choices I made were not only devastating my life, but all of theirs too.

In August 2012, I hit rock bottom. I had destroyed every relationship that mattered to me due to my unfaithfulness and other dark secrets, and I was facing prison time. I had nothing left and nowhere to go. Marie gave me one choice, U-Turn for Christ NJ. I was pretty sure she just wanted to get rid of me, but she told me she prayed for years for this day to come. I had no clue what she was talking about.

Over the next few months at U-Turn, I found salvation and true happiness through Jesus Christ. My life was changed from the inside out. God spoke to me in that place and helped me to break free from addiction. He helped me to change, even when I didn't want to. While at U Turn I learned what it meant to be a disciple and to serve others. I began to read the Bible every day, and apply it to my life. I learned biblical principles that helped me to make better choices and live the life God created me to live. I discovered the love and grace of God, and began to realize that even though I had made a total mess of my life, He still had a good purpose and plan for me. I learned how to trust God, and how to wait on his timing.

After I completed U-Turn and dealt with all my legal problems, Marie was still waiting for me. We got married, and God has truly blessed our lives and our family. He has helped me to restore relationships that I thought were unsalvageable. He has used our lives to encourage others who are struggling with addiction, and opened doors for us that only He could have opened.

I am so thankful for the men who dedicated their lives to serving God through the U-Turn Ministry. They spent countless hours with me when I was completely unworthy of it. They not only prayed for me and told me what to do, but by their example, they showed me what it looked like to live a Christ-centered life.

Life still has its trials, and I am still making amends for the damages I caused, but God continues to make a way for me to deal with it all, as I lean on Him every day for strength. Today, I believe His Word, that says, "I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

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 donate safely online at www.uturn4ChristNJ.com or send a check 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. P. C. & J., May graduates
- Food donations & garden
- Provisions for May's bills

Prayer Requests

- S., wife's pregnancy
- R., upcoming court issues
- J., favor with judge in ruling
- T. & J., phase 2 grads, stay strong w/Lord & close to ministry
- Marriage & family restoration.
- Men would find freedom from bondage of addiction.
- Work for June graduates
- A new ministry vehicle
- Provision for June's bills
- **Upcoming Events**
- July 3rd Pig Roast & Picnic
- August family outing
- Women's prayer fellowship

THANK YOU JESUS

U-Turn For Christ NJ
P.O. Box 286
Allenhurst, NJ 07711
www.uturn4ChristNJ.com

Phone:

Pastor Kevin - Director
(908) 227-6516

Elisha Reese - Overseer
(732) 757-5525

Fax:

(732) 531-0910

E-Mail:

Utturn4Christnj@gmail.com