

The picture below brings me great joy and a bit of sadness as well. These men are the most recent students that have been brought into our program; this is our Induction Class. This is exciting as we recognize that each one is a testament to God's grace; however, we lost one of them today as he made a choice to leave. Despite doing our best to get in the way of him making a bad decision, that was the end result in this particular case.

Unfortunately, every man that enters our doors does not complete the program and graduate. Various things happen with each departure. Typically, it is the individual that gets in the way of himself. Addiction is 'cunning, baffling, and powerful.' It's a miracle by the mercy of God in and of itself to apprehend the man and get him here, but the battle ensues thereafter. At times, this part of the fight can be much more intense as the man has nothing to grab hold of to help soothe his emotions. Pain has a way of pushing us towards the Lord, but it can also cause us to run, making an effort to escape reality. This is what drugs and alcohol can provide us, albeit a deception.

I share all of this with you to ask for prayer for each one pictured. I believe prayer helped cause an intervention in my own life that I am eternally grateful for. There were people laying me before the Lord that I didn't even know. I thank the Lord for those whom were willing to set themselves aside and care about me when I didn't care about myself.

I also want you to know that the victories are many. I spoke of the frustrations and have been real with the fact that not everyone succeeds and that is an unfortunate truth; however, every nine weeks we have a graduation and we highlight those men that have overcome by God's grace. The picture on the backside of this letter reveals those few that have stayed on the narrow path, uncovering more of who they are and persevering through the issues and pain that brought them to our doorstep.

What a way for them to start the new year. II Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Thank you for caring about these men and believing in what the Lord does here at Dunklin Memorial Church. Please take this as an invitation to attend one of our graduation services to see what the Lord has done; we would love to have you pay us a visit.

Praying, believing, and celebrating!



Nick





*Return Home*  
**64<sup>th</sup> Annual  
 HOMECOMING**  
 March 6 - 8, 2026

**David Woodruff, David Figueroa, Blake Joyce, Abe Ortiz, Chad Wilson, Daniel Nix**



I come from 20 years of addiction, I destroyed my relationships and ended up completely alone, homeless, and living in my car. When my Aunt Judy told me about Dunklin, I wanted nothing to do with it. I wasn't a Christian and had no interest in becoming one. But God had other plans. Through the men here and the classes, I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ, and now I can't imagine living without Him.

I spent twenty years in addiction, and by age fifteen I was using heroin intravenously, trying to fill a God-sized hole in my heart. Even though the Lord pursued me throughout my life, I kept rejecting Him and, in the end, I abandoned my wife and two young children. I arrived at Dunklin a shell of a person—desperate, empty, and hopeless. But through the program, the Lord pulled my heart out of the grave. Jesus Christ has given me worth, purpose, and hope for the future.



I come from over 20 years of substance use and a lifetime of prideful, self-centered living. I neglected my three beautiful children and my family. Before coming to Dunklin, I was hopeless, lost, and fighting against God's call on my life. But the Lord broke down my walls and did a miracle in me. Today I have hope and I'm excited to walk through life with Him. I want to be a godly father to my children and to share with others the miracles God has done in my life.

I spent 22 years in alcohol and gambling addiction, which left me bitter, angry, and full of broken relationships. I hurt my family and was absent from my daughter's life. At my lowest point, the Lord brought me to Dunklin, where I focused on Christ and reconciliation. As I took responsibility for my wrongs, God began restoring my family and healing my marriage. I'm staying for Stage 2 to keep growing in Christ and pursue God's purpose for our marriage and my life.



My addiction started 18 years ago and eventually led me to abandon my family and everyone who loved me. On August 8, 2024, I was arrested, and in desperation I cried out to the Lord. God opened the door for me to come to Dunklin and I surrendered my life to Him. Since then, He has restored my relationship with my family and my kids. I was even able to be there when my older brother passed in September 2025. Today, God has given me peace, self-worth, and a new life. I'm grateful for His grace and mercy.

I'm 41 years old and have come from 25 years of addiction. My choices led me to abandon my two daughters, push my family away, and end up in jail and prison. When God brought me to Dunklin, I asked Jesus to save me. He helped me take ownership of my wrongs and showed me that my addiction was my responsibility and that I was hurting everyone who loved me. Today, Christ has given me purpose and shown me I am a child of God. I'm now committed to seeking the Lord & walking in faith.

