



Hello,

My name is Del, and I give Chuck Matsoff and Back on my Feet, to share this story publicly.

My story is no different I imagine, than many others who now run with Back on my Feet. Before I meet Chuck and learned about Back on my Feet, I was in the Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) program. I arrived there from jail. I no longer wanted to live the helpless and homeless life I had been. I wanted a relationship with God, so that I could finally have help facing the fears I'd been hiding from most of my life. I wanted to turn my unmanageable life into one of serenity, and with purpose.

Chuck brought the Back on my Feet program into the ARC. He explained the concept, and asked if we were interested. He spoke plainly, honestly, and with integrity. This resonated in me, and made sense to what I was looking for. I was healing spiritually, and felt God would also want me to heal physically. So like many of the men there, I signed up.

The first few early morning runs were painful. Not just because we had to get up at 5am, which is hard at 58, having worked the night before. But, physically my old beat up body revolted. My knees hurt, my back aches, but I knew God would see me through. So with Chuck and his wife Angue's encouragement, plus 3 knee brace and a back brace, i kept showing up.

I found myself looking forward to our early morning runs, and the fellowship we were building. It was also helping me to strengthen my relationship with God. I started to no longer seek isolation, but to enjoy interacting with my fellow man.

With Chuck's help and guidance, I built a resume. We'll, to be honest, with the information I gave Chuck, he created a resume. He sent it to me in a pdf as well as printed some up. He was confident I'd need them for a face to face interview. He helped me to set up my indeed and LinkedIn accounts. He pushed me to start applying for jobs.

Through his positive words, and his hand out in friendship, i gained confidence in myself. It was due to him I got my first interview. It was a virtual interview with Enterprise. I was asked to meet face to face with the Regional manager. If not for my past, I might have gotten this job. He helped me to see that it wasn't a fail, but just a learning opportunity. Chuck kept my spirits up, and inspired me to keep putting myself out there. Until now, he probably doesn't know that he's a large part to my finally getting a job.

Due to Chuck and Back on my Feet, I'm the newest Account Coordinator with American Van Lines. I live in a safe place that is allowing me to save my money, so as to get my own place. I will never be homeless again. "God is doing for me, what I couldn't do for myself". He placed Chuck and the Back on my Feet program, on my new path.

Life today is completely different. I'm no longer traveling through a long dark tunnel. I'm not just seeing a light ahead of me. I'm actually seeing the outline of a horizon, and the sun rising up over it. I once read, "Anything conceivable, if believable, is achievable." I believe this again, and it's due to God, Chuck, and Back on my Feet. I hope my story can help others that have similar stories. Thanks for reading and stary running with us today.

Best Regards,

Delmar Hicks