

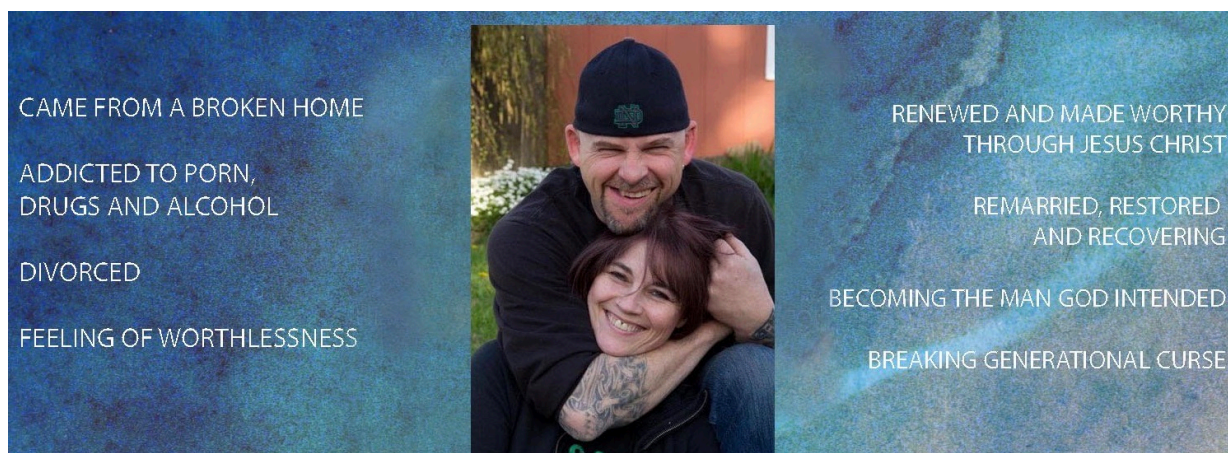
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We're bringing people together in Rockwood to ensure that no one is invisible and that everyone has access to food, freedom, and forgiveness.

This is part of the PREVENTION side of our anti-trafficking efforts, dovetailing with our Integrated Community Transformation mission.

We envision Rockwood becoming a community where children are less vulnerable to being trafficked and adults do not want to traffick kids.



Frank Hicks is one of the men I have been discipling for the last 4+ years. To many he appears "rough around the edges" but he is a dear brother with a sincere love for Jesus and a deep awareness of his need to be dependent on the Lord. His (edited/PG-13 version) story appears below (with his permission). This is most of what he shared recently at Recovery Church.

I was born in Collingswood, NJ. There was a lot of trauma in my life and I don't really have much memory of my childhood until about 5-6. My father was a rage-a-holic and he was always yelling at my mom and destroying the house. At 6yrs old I started acting out--outbursts at school, starting fires, fights with other kids. I also got my first taste of porn. **By the time I was 8, I was engaged in sexual behavior and experimenting with other boys. I also was able to get the Playboy, Penthouse, and Hustler magazines, as well as cigarettes from the old man at the subway newsstand.**

I didn't know how to deal with the pain in my home and I also did things to get my fathers attention because he was only home for dinner. Then he would find a reason to get mad and leave. **The reason my father was gone all the time was because he was busy living a double life and had an apartment with his girlfriend who thought he was divorced.**

My mom finally saved enough money, packed what she didn't ship, and loaded me my brother and sister into the station wagon under the guise that we were

leaving and not returning, and I was broken. I didn't want to leave my dad or my home and I let her know it the entire way from New Jersey to Oregon. I made the trip miserable for her.

It was at that time my mom thought it better for me to view her naked than to view porn. Which led to other inappropriate touching that shouldn't happen between a son and his mother. I was 11.

At the end of that summer I went back to my father in N.J. to an almost empty house and a huge stash of porn my dad had tucked away in the hallway closet, and I dove in. By the next summer my dad and I stole my brother and sister from OR and he was driving us south to Texas. The only way I can describe my feelings is heartbroken. I just wanted my parents back and I didn't want to leave the only place I had ever known. And of all the places for me to end up was smack dab in the middle of TX. This was a small German town in the Deep South and they didn't like Yankees. They said "ya'll" I said "you's guys." I think I got into a fight almost every day for what seemed like months. **And even though back home I may have felt like a square peg trying to fit into a round hole, in this place I really was.**

I was introduced to my first taste of alcohol and from that moment on I used it like an addict. It was also around that time that VHS videos came out and a whole new way to view porn. I was watching it with friends, trying to get my girlfriend to watch it, I was on crack, and so were the girls I was having sex with. I would sleep with any girl I could. **I only had a girlfriend to see how many times I could cheat on her without getting caught.** My view of women was completely sexual and I always felt they were inferior to me. I didn't care if I hurt them.

As the sex, drugs, and rock-n-roll increased, my life spun out of control. I did meet a girl that seemed to be the one—well, at least she met my twisted idea of what I wanted in my women. Over a long string of events we ended up saved, married, and in OR. I had this twisted thought that this girl was what made me good and without her I was only bad. I didn't have a good grounding in Christ. **I was never disciplined and never understood that I was not the old person I used to be before Christ. I believed it was up to me to become good.** With my addiction to porn...well, that was a problem that made me feel like I could never measure up to God's standards.

I had some success with my drug addiction but could never overcome porn. It was killing me inside and it was harming my marriage. Then came the internet and unlimited access to porn. At the same time I was giving up on the fight to be good enough for God and my wife. I started blaming everyone and it wasn't long till I picked up a bottle. **Well, within about 7 years I was a full-blown meth addict, divorced, and living in a dope house in SE Portland. I was trying to live a life that I couldn't keep up with. I hated God and wanted nothing to do with salvation. My only hope was to die. After a failed attempt to kill myself, I was relying on the streets to do it for me and it**

would never leave me and begged God for another chance.

I started going to recovery meetings and got clean again but porn was still there and I continued to use. I came to a place where I just figured God had made me this way. He must accept that this is how I am and it's never going to change. I **got remarried to my beautiful wife Shelley** and we were going to church together and ended up at Abundant Life (Parkrose campus) and I met Scott Bradley.

I had only been going maybe a month when he came up to me and asked when was the last time I masturbated. Wow! I was blown away and just blurted out the truth. Then he asked if I thought I might have a problem with porn, again I was blown away and told him the truth--that yes I did have a problem. Then he asked if I wanted to attend a class called "The Genesis Process." I agreed and started on a journey that has had many successes and many failures. The one thing it has done is brought me into a relationship with my Papa (God) that has shown me it doesn't matter what your past looks like. **He has a purpose for you to help build His kingdom and to bring Him glory, and it's gonna happen whether or not I want to be on the receiving end of the blessing or with my back to His goodness, standing in rebellion. He will get the glory. Today with my still many successes and many failures I choose to give Him the glory in it all.**

I have learned that I cannot do this alone. Only in community with other men who in non-judgmental ways open up and honestly share and accept one another and pray for one another, and help each other follow Jesus, can I find the encouragement I need to fight these spiritual battles and move forward in following the Lord. I am thankful for the godly men the Lord has brought into my life to help me know my true identity, and how to walk in the Spirit so I do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

And not only does He want to work IN me, He wants to work THROUGH me to help disciple others. This is what I am trying to do as I depend on Him and His power.

MISCELLANEOUS

* In our last update, we mentioned Vicki speaking at a Women's Conference on the topic "Called to Be His". Here is a link to that talk if you would like to listen:

[https://soundcloud.com/asischurch/vicky-mccracken-9-14-19?
in=asischurch/sets/he-calls-me-his-womens](https://soundcloud.com/asischurch/vicky-mccracken-9-14-19?in=asischurch/sets/he-calls-me-his-womens)

included "Healthy According to Who?", "Soul Care", "Conflict Management", and "Forgiveness".

* Our daughter Kendra and her family are visiting from Scotland from Oct. 31st to Nov. 17th!!!!!!

* Scott is organizing a Marriage Mentoring Ministry under the umbrella of our local church, to be officially launched in January 2020.





Steve and Kendra, and Phoebe and Rhea visiting from Scotland for 2 1/2 weeks (and Ellie enjoying the sun).

*We are so very **THANKFUL** for many things but at the top of the list is **YOU!** Because of **YOU**, we are able to educate others about sex trafficking, help foster a collaborative spirit amongst churches in an at-risk community, disciple others*

financial investments to help this happen!

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