



Igniting Discipleship in the Hardest Places of the Heart

One evening, many years ago, while I was working at one of my missions, an uninvited young man rushed into my office. With a mix of anguish and determination, he pleaded, "Help me! I don't want to be this way anymore." I could tell he was in distress. He showed the unmistakable smell and appearance of homelessness, with bloodshot eyes hinting at intoxication, and an overall demeanor that expressed his urgent need for help.

His name was James. Days earlier, his wife, exhausted from his deception, constant stealing of their rent money for drugs, and disregard for her and their children, had told him to leave the house and come back only when he had regained his sanity. In exchange for a beer and a small piece of crack cocaine, James was ready to give up his job, wife, children, home, dignity, and self-respect.

That night in my office, James surrendered his life to Christ. Before that night, he had given his life to a substance that ultimately destroyed everything beautiful and valuable in his life. When James surrendered to Christ, God restored his life, including his marriage. After completing the program offered at the mission, he found a job and began supporting his family. As further proof of the power of surrendering to God, He lifted James from the gutter to a leadership position in his church.



James's plea for help was a Macedonian call for me. It was a call for me to spend my life bringing the gospel to the broken, wounded, and addicted. In Acts 16:6-10, we read:

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

I spent almost thirty years of my life founding ministries that work with men and women trapped in the grip of addiction. During those years, I worked with thousands of people. I discovered that overcoming addiction was more than making a decision for Jesus, attending church, or even reading the Bible.

Early on in my ministry, one of the men in my program had gone forward in a local church and made a decision for Christ. The following Sunday, he was scheduled to work at the front desk. Upon learning of his assignment, he called the pastor of the church and informed him that he would be unable to attend on Sunday. The pastor assured him that he would fix the problem for him.

Shortly afterward, the pastor called me and asked if I could make an exception for this man so he could attend church on Sunday. I explained that the discipline of monitoring the desk was a vital part of the program. He replied, "But he went forward in our church last Sunday. He gave his life to Christ. He's a new person."



The same day, the man left our program and moved into one of the houses that the church used for missionaries on furlough. The pastor also stopped his church's financial support for our ministry. I didn't hear anything more for several months.

One afternoon, the pastor from that church called me. The first thing he did was apologize for not trusting me. He explained that the man his church was housing had trashed the house, leaving beer cans and drug paraphernalia all over. The pastor and I became good fishing buddies.

For years, I have often said that if only the Church could catch a vision for reaching this segment of the population, everything would change. Look up the statistics online. Addiction has moved into the suburbs and even the rural areas of our country. It is a plague that affects not only the poor but also the middle class and the wealthy. It knows no boundaries.

Although drug addiction can cause massive bodily damage and even death, you and I both know that at its core, the problem is spiritual. But the solution is more than walking the aisle or education. Although both are important, after working with thousands of men and women ruined by addiction, plus my personal journey with addiction, I have discovered these five keys for overcoming addiction:

1. Connect with God
2. Embrace Personal Responsibility
3. Find and Join a Church
4. Meet With God Daily
5. Develop Genuine Relationships that Promote Honesty

I have written in detail about these five keys in my new book: Finding Freedom from Addiction Through Christ. The book is available on Amazon.



I have pastored four churches during my life. So, I understand the demands and difficulties that come with pastoring a church. You carry the weight of the congregation, the joys, the grief, and the expectations. And if you're like most pastors I've met, your heart longs to make a greater impact in your community.

That's why The Veritas Journey exists. Not only does this ministry help the addicted find freedom, but it also revitalizes the local church's life. When your church opens its doors to the broken, the healing begins, not just in them, but in you.

Here are five powerful benefits your church will experience by hosting The Veritas Journey:

Your church will become a place of hope for your community.

Hurting people are everywhere: neighbors, coworkers, even church members, quietly battling addiction. When your church hosts Veritas Meetings, it sends a clear message: You are not alone. Help is here. Hope is real.

Your members will experience renewed purpose through service.

Veritas Meetings provide real opportunities for your people to step up, including mentoring, leading small groups, welcoming guests, and sharing their testimonies. Lives change when church members begin ministering in meaningful ways.

Your church will see spiritual growth and deeper discipleship.

These meetings aren't just recovery sessions. They are weekly encounters with the gospel. As participants and volunteers engage with Scripture, prayer, and truth-telling, their faith deepens and their walk with Christ matures.



You will reach a group that many churches overlook.

The Veritas Journey bridges the gap between the church and the streets. You will connect with men and women who might otherwise be overlooked: those yearning for change, open to Christ, and seeking a second chance. You will also reach people who are just like you but are silently struggling with addiction, ashamed to admit the hidden truth that is slowly ruining their lives.

You will witness the power of the gospel in action.

When someone bound by addiction walks in darkness and then finds freedom in Christ, it energizes the entire body of Christ. There's nothing more inspiring than seeing redemption firsthand. It reignites your members' faith.

I've seen it again and again: people once lost, now leading others; families once broken, now restored. When a church steps out in faith to love the wounded, God steps in with power.

I'd love to talk with you and help you explore what this could look like in your church. The Veritas Journey isn't a burden; it's a blessing. It's not just one more thing to manage. It's a ministry that brings life, growth, and gospel impact to your congregation and city.

Let's partner together. Let's help people find freedom, rebuild their lives, and walk in truth. Schedule a free call with me and let's begin our journey together.

