

ALPHACITICORPS

What's It All About?

Recently my wife Tracy and I were talking about how she might take some of the stress out of her life. Being the energetic and efficient woman she is, responsibilities had piled up on her - Tracy is a dance instructor, choreographer, massage therapist, power of attorney, works with the elderly, and most recently, started working for a crisis pregnancy center. Things were beginning to wear on her. Like many of us husbands, I offered what I felt was a practical solution.

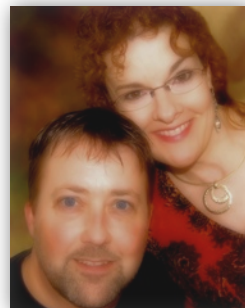
“You may need to consider resigning from the crisis pregnancy work. It takes the biggest chunk of your time and pays less than the dance instruction and massage therapy.”

“That’s the one thing I could never give up!” Tracy said, tears welling up in her eyes. “At times I am the first person a young pregnant girl meets when she walks through the door or calls our facility for help. I have the privilege of being a great comfort to those who find themselves in a crisis. Some feel abortion is their only option. I can only pray that they would be open to having an ultra sound at our clinic to get a clear look at the tiny life inside of them and see a little beating heart, then maybe we can save that one life.”

“Honey, I get that!” I said. “That’s exactly what we do at AlphaCitiCorps! We save one life at a time. Sometimes we’re successful and sometimes we’re not. But when we are, it makes it all worthwhile.”

And that’s what AlphaCitiCorps is all about - one life at a time. Here are the stories of five men who are currently involved with AlphaCitiCorps - men whose lives have been saved.

Steve Erickson, Executive Director, AlphaCitiCorps



My troubles started early. Some grade school teachers let me sleep in class just so they didn’t have to deal with me. At church I stole the doughnut money to buy cigarettes. By age 13 I was walking to school with a joint in my mouth. I failed seventh grade and quit school altogether in the tenth grade. By age 20 I had three DWIs. I would get four more before turning 30.

In my 30s meth became my life. At one point I was awake for twenty days straight. I’d steal anything of value to support my habit - especially cars. I used meth for the last time in early 2008, just before police busted me while driving a tow truck hauling two stolen cars. I ended up in the Wright County jail where I surrendered to Christ.

From jail I went into a treatment facility where I met the men of AlphaCitiCorps. They have become the friends I can count on and have poured into my life non-stop with the love of God. He’s replaced my stony heart with His love. Now I’m a Jesus addict.

I grew up in a very dysfunctional home in Milwaukee. Even though my parents were very active in church, our home was not ‘christian’ in any sense of the word. My father was absent and my mother was abusive. As a result, I became very



cynical about religion. I started running away from home and hanging with the older kids at a very early age. I soon discovered that I could mask my pain with drugs and alcohol. Illegal substances would rule my life for years to come.

I met the Alpha guys while in treatment in Minneapolis. I saw something that I had never seen before - God's kingdom in action. There was a genuine love for another human being, no matter how far that person had fallen. I thank God for the men of AlphaCitiCorps. God used their friendships to save my life.

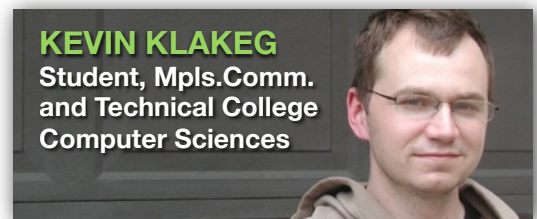


Most of my life I had an emptiness inside my heart. I turned to drugs at the age of 15 to fill this void. The next 17 years I was in and out of more than a dozen treatment centers, lived homeless, lost jobs, and destroyed all my relationships.

In the fall of 2003 I finally came to the end of myself. Completely broken inside and alone, I heard the hope of a new life through a relationship with Jesus Christ. I surrendered. Since that day I have never been the same. Jesus Christ has set me free from addiction and filled the emptiness of my heart.

Today I am married to my beautiful wife Tracy and we have a great life together. I've had the privilege of being the director of AlphaCitiCorps for the last six years, bringing the message of hope and the power of Jesus Christ to those who are still broken by addiction - helping to save one life at a time.

I was born in Santa Barbara, California, in the middle of my parents divorce. My early memories are of fighting and conflict in our home. The environment was violent as a result of constant drunkenness. In my early teens I first turned to using women, then drugs and alcohol to ease the pain. Over the next few years I would spend fourteen months in jail and go through ten treatment centers before I was willing to submit my will to God.



Over the past year I have been growing in my faith in the Lord and seen many relationships restored. I am actively involved in AA and am learning to serve others who are addicted to drugs and alcohol. I would have never imagined that I would be able to care for others as I do now. I know the positive changes I've experienced are a result of my new relationships with the Alpha guys that encourage me to seek the Lords will on a daily basis.



Life sucked! Finally, fed up with my life of drugs, I challenged God, "If you're there, please take me out of this world!" He did. He took me out of my old world of drugs and self-centeredness and gave me new life. I began to learn that the surest way to a full life was to put others first.

I love life! Can't wait to get up and see what the day brings. I think in coming out of darkness, the extent to which you have sinned, is the extent to which you have the capacity to perform good. In my new life in Christ, I constantly look for ways to serve others. Facing my troubles now is cleansing rather than degrading. Alpha House supports a transition in lifestyle by providing a safe living environment which encourages and facilitates community service, spiritual growth and healthy social development.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ALPHACITICORPS AT:

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