



WT Walking Tall

Southern Oregon

LIFE COACHING

FAITH-BASED MENTORSHIP

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES FOR JOB READINESS

AUTOMOTIVE WOODWORKING FABRICATING & WELDING SMALL ENGINE COMPUTER DESIGN

3/10/2021

Dear Walking Tall,
Tom and Judy Smurzynski,
And all who work to make such a wonderful organization exist,
My name is Joshua Crawford. I am a firm believer in Christ and His gospel, a children's worker, and a martial arts instructor. It is not out



of place to say I would, in all likelihood, be none of these today without God placing Walking Tall and its incredible people in my life. My mind wanders back to the conversations I had with so many great men and the lessons I learned from them; to the mealtime devotions that fed our souls so extensively (how the meals themselves were some of the best ever!); to how awesome evening worship was in fellowship with others.

Each of those God-centered evenings reinforced what I learned in church. The Bible message in James 1:22 is more than just hearing, and it is really about action foremost. Even more incredible to me was that Walking Tall wasn't held in a church building but in the great unknown, in workshops and garages, on concrete floors and dusty gravel, the perfect places for God to work. I realized that God is the ultimate provider. Through Walking Tall, He provided an outlet I and so many others needed. This realization of God's grace brought me to the deep relationship I have with Him today.

In my latter years at Walking Tall, I had the opportunity to assist some of the younger men in their work. Whether it was as simple as pointing them in the right direction or as difficult as explaining a piece of machinery and teaching them how to use it, I really enjoyed the responsibility. Perhaps what I most enjoyed about the job was the feeling of making a difference in other's lives. It was the kind of work that challenged me to step up, and from it, I learned that I loved to teach. Without this discovery, which I attribute wholly to God's grace and the people young and old at Walking Tall, I am confident I would not be teaching children the gospel as I do today through Child Evangelism Fellowship.

As a martial artist, I have learned how vital discipline and respect truly are from a young age. The mentors, Tom and Judy, taught me and reminded me to be respectful to others, to discipline myself to do hard things and do them well, to be filled with integrity and self-control, and to ask God for help often. There was a time when I wanted to stop martial arts on the verge of black belt, a five-year commitment, when training began to feel monotonous. At that major time in my life, my mom was the one who pushed me to continue on, and I have thanked her ever since, but the things I learned at Walking Tall, the biblical truths reinforced within me, setting my mind on things above, the practical fruits of the Spirit; those are what led me to be the martial artist I am today, and moreover the person I am today.

Lastly, as someone who hasn't seen their father in quite a long time, I recognize the importance of a father figure in one's life. I may not have seen it then, but looking back, I needed those men in my life. Yet another reason I thank God for Walking Tall.

Recently besides teaching, I am working toward becoming a movie director. I'm taking steps in that direction slowly but surely and would appreciate your prayers as I do so.

Thank you so much, Tom and Judy, for the awesome opportunity to write this!

And thank you to my mentors and my friends at Walking Tall!

Joshua Crawford



*If you haven't ever supported Walking Tall, please consider a one time donation or regular monthly donation to support and continue offering many skills to these young men. Thank you so much!
Walking Tall: PO Box 3789 Central Point, OR 97502 or walkingtallso.org for online donations.*