



# WT Walking Tall

Southern Oregon

8/23/2023

LIFE COACHING

FAITH-BASED  
MENTORSHIP

HANDS-ON  
EXPERIENCES  
FOR JOB  
READINESS

AUTOMOTIVE WOODWORKING FABRICATING & WELDING SMALL ENGINE COMPUTER DESIGN CONSTRUCTION AND MORE

## I Once Was Lost

Growing up in a little mining community has its downsides. There wasn't much to do but ride dirt bikes and ATVs. My father worked hard in the mine and other jobs to support our large family of ten. When I was only eight years old, I lost my mother and one of my brothers when a drunk driver hit them. My household went out of control with emotions of anger and confusion. That was my example for a long time. I felt sad, lost, and angry, which affected my friendships and relationships. My dad remarried, and we had two new step-siblings. After graduating, I got involved in the nightlife scene, working in a casino. I was part of Sin City for over a decade, gambling, drinking, and doing drugs. At 29, I hit rock bottom and realized I needed to quit and change my direction. As I cried out for help but didn't know how to fully surrender to Christ. I lost my stepmother to cancer, and a year and a half later, I lost my dad. This was devastating! I started pursuing the Lord more but was too stubborn to ask for help. It took losing almost everything I had before accepting help. Giving in to God is still a constant check in my life. Soon after that, I met my future wife, and now I'm a father of a nine-month-old son, which is incredible because I didn't think I would ever be a parent or meet anyone. In three years, my life went from poverty to real purpose. I've always known God was there, but I still acted like I was in the driver's seat, treating Him like a rainy-day friend. I didn't realize that that I had to say no to myself. I'm happy I did. Over 3,000 times I took advantage of my days and wasn't grateful, and I don't want to do that again.



My wife thought Walking Tall was right up my alley, so she introduced me to Tom and Judy. I thought, wow, this place is great, and why didn't I have this when I was a kid? It's inspiring, and we want to show these young men love, care, and the importance of fighting for the truth. At Walking Tall mentors give their all so that young men can have a better life! The mentors of WT have a combined knowledge that is both baffling and fascinating. They're willing to give without being condescending, but they're also incredibly patient. The young men are gaining knowledge, but the men are even more excited; it brings out the joyful kid inside them. I pray that other places have this same program, and if not, hopefully we can lead by example to others like Christ did. Walking Tall is a therapeutic help; I come out and see familiar, friendly faces who are excited to see me. That's something special, and I cherish it. My time at Walking Tall helps me forget about the 3,000 days I wasted and wasn't grateful.

*Mentor Oliver*

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33



***Thank you for your support and prayers!***

*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](http://walkingtallso.org) for online donations.*