



WT Walking Tall

Southern Oregon

11/29/2023

LIFE COACHING

FAITH-BASED MENTORSHIP

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES FOR JOB READINESS

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

Awkward to Blessed

I have been married for 45 years and recently retired from my position at Eagle Point School district, where I worked for 26 years. As of last October, I have been a Christian for 40 years. Before then, I was an atheist and did not know who God was. I used to question many aspects of life before knowing Jesus, including why I could only pick up a Christian radio station during our move to Oregon. After we arrived at my friend's house, he asked me to attend church again, but we were still hesitant. Next, we found an apartment on the river, perfect for me as I love fishing. One day, our neighbors invited us to a rafting trip. When we arrived, I saw about 25 rafts laid out, and then they prayed before we took off. I wasn't expecting that! We floated down the river and had a great time, then invited us to a barbecue at Jack's house. They started playing a song called "Father Abraham," which made me feel awkward again. This time, I accepted the invitation to attend church. However, I was on my own while my wife was away taking care of her ill mother. The church we attended was Trail Christian Fellowship, held in a gymnasium with only a few people; it was mainly hippies playing music, but the teaching was good. We have continued to attend church there for 40 years and have been blessed to go on many mission trips. On my first trip, I expected to bless the people, but instead, they blessed me. My wife and I have also fostered many boys, and I remain close with several of them. I've seen the evil side and the side of Jesus, and I'll take the side of Jesus any day. Recently, my wife went through breast cancer surgery; that was tough! We've had trials and tragedies, but it helps to know God and have people praying for you. I know having God in my life is daily, not just on Sunday.

Participating in Walking Tall, a faith-based program, has been an incredibly enjoyable experience for me. I have always had a passion for woodworking and sharing my knowledge with young men, and Walking Tall provides an excellent opportunity to do just that. It's rewarding to demonstrate how to do various things while sharing life skills and working alongside the younger generation. One of the best things about Walking Tall is the chance to build relationships with young men. In fact, I still work with one of the young men who came to Walking Tall, and he is now 21 years old. We often go fishing together, and he has developed a passion for making pens, which he continues to pursue from home. Overall, Walking Tall has been an extraordinary experience for all of us involved.

Rick

Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.
Jeremiah 17:7



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 for online donations.*