



ChristTown Ministries, Inc.

— Changing Lives by Christ-Centered Living —

FAR BETTER by: Becky Coletti

As with most families, someone I love very much has been affected by addiction. After learning about Bob and Laura Wells through a friend, I entered the doors of ChristTown on April 22, 2014 for the first time and met Laura. Although we didn't have anyone at ChristTown, Laura welcomed me to attend their classes saying, "Whenever we refer to our 'residents' just put your loved one's name there."



I couldn't begin to capture what I learned in the years to follow from both Laura and Bob. Not only did they help me sharpen the tools I needed in my own personal situation, but they helped guide me into a closer relationship with Christ altogether.

When Laura was teaching me how I might personalize Scripture, she read aloud Isaiah 43:1-5, placing my name in all the right places. I would like to do the same with a devotional I read from Our Daily Bread/Our Daily Journey, titled Far Better by K.T. Sim.* I thought of Bob Wells through its entirety. Those who know the Wells family might recall Bob's "win-win" attitude, a "win" should he go home to be with our Father, and a "win" if he's healed and continues living for Christ with his "bride" and family here on earth. Thank you K.T. Sim for touching our hearts so deeply with your story as I personalize it with ours:

{Bob Wells} was in the final stages of his fight with cancer. His faith, however, remained strong. {Bob's} anticipation to see Jesus was palpable. He knew he would soon be home with his Father (John 14:1-3). With Paul he could say, "I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me" (Philippians 1:23).

Yet he was greatly conflicted – "torn between two desires" (Philippians 1:23). He experienced the intense tension Paul described. Ever mindful of his joy in being a husband, father, brother, and friend, he was also God's servant and wanted to continue "to live for Christ" and "do more fruitful work for [Him]" (Philippians 1:21-22). But his surrender to God's perfect plan reflects these words from Paul: "I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die" (Philippians 1:20).

At the time, {Bob Wells} didn't know how much time he had left. But he knew that his heavenly Father knew his days. There were uncertainties, yet he was fully assured of his future hope (Philippians 1:20). "For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better." (Philippians 1:21).

This assurance was only because of what Jesus did for him on the cross. And, as the Father's greatly loved child, he had been set free from the power of death and the fear of dying (Hebrews 2:14-15). For {Bob}, now with Jesus, death held no fear. Indeed, he is "with Christ, which [is infinitely and unquestionably] far better" (Philippians 1:23).

Becky Coletti

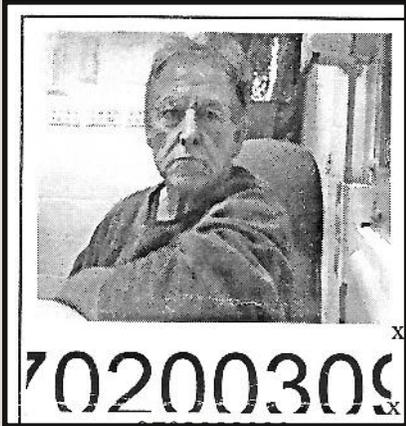
* 01/13/17 Our Daily Journal <http://www.ourdailyjourney.org/2017/01/13/far-better/>.

*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.
The old life is gone; a new life has begun!
2 Corinthians 5:17*

Second Chances... By: Patsy Burgess

Sometimes we just don't "get it" the first time around.

Bubba, as he has been known all his life, grew up in Blountstown. He told me, "I was raised hard and poor and went to church when I was a child. My grandma told me I would grow up to be a preacher. But that's not the road I chose."



"I worked hard and had a successful well drilling business. I was married 27 years and we raised two 'wonderful' children. I was driven to stay busy and 'ate' over-the-counter speed pills so I could. Then, one day I ran into a friend at a service station who offered me crystal meth. I liked it and continued using it because it enabled me to work and 'go-go-go' all the time. However, before long crystal meth consumed my life and it cost me my wife, my business and the close relationship I had with my children and grandchildren."

Bubba was arrested as a felon and sentenced to ChristTown for a year followed by house arrest for another year. Bubba came to ChristTown in September 2011. (See above picture.) He did well and returned to his family in Blountstown after successfully completing our one-year program. At home, he initially read his Bible every day, as he was cautioned to do when he left ChristTown. But then he got a job at the ship yard and put the Bible aside.

Some of the people he worked with at the ship yard had used crystal meth with him prior to his one-year stay at ChristTown. The temptation was there and very strong. One day Bubba thought, "I need to get high one more time. Just one last time." A couple days later, Bubba got high, but it wasn't for the last time. Bubba said, "The more you take, you get to where you don't work; you just look for your next fix." That is where Bubba was, spending his days looking for his next fix. He lost his job and began making meth to support his habit.

"When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, searching for rest. But when it finds none, it says, 'I will return to the person I came from.' So it returns and finds its former home is all swept and clean. Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before." Luke 11:24-26 (NLT)

"In early February 2015, it was pressed on my heart to visit Pastor Bob and Miss Laura at ChristTown. Pastor Bob, doing his best to convince me to come back into th program, asked me to let him follow me home, leave my truck, and return with him to ChristTown, but I refused. A week later I was caught night hunting with a gun and containers containing traces of meth. I found myself in jail, wishing I had accepted Pastor Bob's help."

"At sentencing, I was given a choice of three years in prison or ten years at ChristTown with the potential for early termination after five. I chose Christtown because I knew prison would not help me but ChristTown would. I don't anticipate leaving ChristTown even if given the opportunity after five years. I plan to stay until the Lord tells me to go."



Please call us for your next move!

ChristTown is pretty much Bubba's family now. He has completed our one-year program again and is a valued member of our leadership team. "This is where I need to be until God wants me to leave. I'm happy, full of joy here!" And it shows. (current photo @ right) He almost always has a smile to share and enjoys sharing the love of Christ the way he saw Pastor Bob do it; that is, greeting people, whether he knows them or not, by saying, "Has anyone told you today that they love you? Jesus does and I do too."

It's obvious that Bubba values the ChristTown program but he said that more important than the program is making the personal decision to live right (accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior) or die.

What does Bubba say about what his Grandma told him as a child? "If I keep praying and asking, I believe it will happen." Looks to me like Grandma called it----it's already happening!



I think Bubba has "got it" this time around. Thank you, Jesus, for second chances!

The Pastor's Life

There once was a man
Who lived life in pure sin.
Could not alone suppress
The hell he had within.

The dope had a hold.
He hid behind masks.
Everyone swore
That he'd never last.

Then through his tears
And upon bended knee
He begged his Lord,
"Forgive me please"

Through much hard work
And many more lessons
Came a righteous lifestyle
Full of cheerful blessings.

He shared his story,
Touched countless lives.
And so we celebrate
The pastor's life.

KKM (2017)



Truly Jesus is The Messiah, the Son of the Living God! Believe in Him and I will see you soon! All for Jesus- Bob

"When you don't know what to do, just do the next right thing, 'cause you can't go wrong doing right."

—Pastor Bob

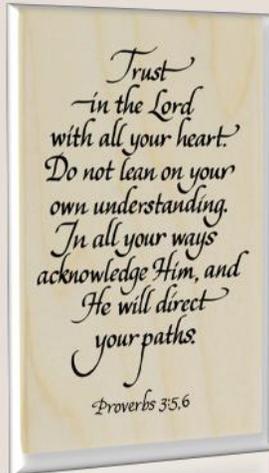
"BOB-ISMS"

"It don't matter if it rains up...we're gonna be alright!" *** "Don't get married to this side of the dirt."

"Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay."

"If you're still sucking wind, it's not too late to get in."

A WORD FROM MISS LAURA...



One year ago on the 14th of March, Bob moved to heaven. This past year of 'firsts' has been challenging to say the least. People tell me it gets easier but honestly I've yet to experience that. Please don't read my words as one who is depressed and without hope because it is just the opposite! I'm ok. More than ever I *have my mind set on things above and not on things on earth. For I have died and my life is hidden with Christ in God!* (Col 3:2-3) What an incredible joy and blessing it is to know that I know that I know that I know—that I belong to Jesus! Because of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross, not only will I get to be with Him but also Bob, my Dad and many others I love dearly! I pray you enjoy this tribute to my husband, Pastor Bob Wells, on the anniversary of his homegoing.

Thank you for your continued support of ChristTown Ministries! Together we are winning souls to Christ and helping men change their lives!

By His Grace,

Laura

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