



Hello, my name is Nick Rose and this is my story.

When I was younger, I had a pretty good childhood; I was raised in a Christian home by my mom and dad, I had 2 brothers and a pretty cool dog. My father was in the Navy so we moved around a bit, it was pretty cool, and I got to see a lot of the world before I even hit puberty. Don't get me wrong; we weren't the perfect family, but in my opinion we were pretty realistic. Things seemed to go pretty well for us, it really wasn't until I was older and in high school that I started to go downhill. When I was 16 I began to hang out with what I guess most people would call the "in crowd". And to be honest, when you're 16 and you're in high school there really isn't anything more you want than to be well liked and considered cool. So I went along with the crowd and began to experiment with a lot of different things. (drugs, woman, parties) It was fun, but when my mother, who is a very loving and spirit-filled lady, saw some of the choices I was making, "she was not HAPPY" and every day it was just this constant battle between us. She would drag me to church all the time and

try and stop me from everything I tried to do, but she didn't win, and to be honest I didn't really either. Mentally I couldn't take it anymore, my drug use began to get worse and my ability to function normally went straight out the window. It was right at that time a buddy of mine introduced a drug called Heroin to me, I was 17 yrs old. And in my mind I had just found all the answers to my problems. (OR SO I THOUGHT) The next few years of my life just turned into this hellish cycle of living just to get high. I literally could not deal with reality. And as long as I had something to put in to my arm I didn't have to. So I did whatever it took to make sure that I didn't have to come down and deal with the person I had become. Towards the end of my addiction I began to really lose it, I found myself in so much trouble with the law that I didn't know what to do, I had experienced more things than I ever wanted to experience and I just kept heading in a direction that I never wanted to head down. Physically there wasn't a drug in this world that was able to satisfy me, and mentally there wasn't anything I could do to get Gods voice out of my head. I was done..... So in 2008 on the side of a 7-11 in Seattle, I got down on my knees and let God know that I was done. I just remember telling God that "I can't get your voice out of my head, and that I can't keep going on this way, GOD IM YOURS". And in that moment I just remember feeling this feeling of hope. I can't explain it. And I remember feeling like I should call my mother and tell her what was going on, so I called my mom back home in NC and told her what was going on, and that I needed some help. And no lie; by the end of that month I was back home in NC inside a faith based program I knew nothing about called Dare Challenge. While in Dare Challenge God really began to do some amazing things with me and my life, He gave me a purpose and a dream for ministry that I still hold today, He gave me a new relationship with Him that I know will be there forever. I can't even tell you how much my life has changed from who I was to who I am today! After completing my year at the program I still had some other things I knew I had to take care of... while in my mess I had committed some crimes that were pretty bad, but regardless of how bad they were I knew God was calling me back to Seattle to take care of them. I was looking at going to jail for 5 years. And there should be no reason why I shouldn't have gotten 5 years, but somewhere in Gods great mercy and grace He saw fit to take my 5 year sentence and turn it into a 5 month sentence! I couldn't believe it, and I also couldn't quit praising Him. The next 5 months that I spent in that jail, were so peaceful. There wasn't a moment during that time that I quit proclaiming the work that the Lord had done in my life. It was an amazing experience!

After getting out of jail, and finally putting my past behind me, I decided to come back to Dare Challenge, but this time for a very different reason! I came to give back what two years ago was given to me while I was here. I truly thank God so much for giving me the privilege to come back here and work, I can't even begin to tell you how it feels to be able to be here and be used by God to make a difference in guys lives who were exactly where I was two years ago... God is Good....

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (New International Version) He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Editor's Note—We are pleased to have Nick here at Dare Challenge giving back as a staff member, helping other young men through his discipleship. Nick's goal, after his time with Dare Challenge, is to enroll and attend Christ For The Nations Bible College in Dallas, Texas. The Lord has lit a fire within this young man as well as placed a call upon his life, so will you please join us in prayer for him and his future in the mission field..