



BREAKING CYCLES OF DEFEAT SINCE 2007

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August was Overdose Awareness Month where Rising Above has set aside space for individuals to remember loved ones lost to overdose.

A MINISTRY MOMENT

THE "SECRET SAUCE"

A few years ago, a Provincial Government official said to me, "Every treatment facility claims to have a 'secret sauce' that distinguishes their program from the rest. What's yours?" That was a good question.

What does Rising Above offer that makes us stand out from other treatment facilities? A few things come to mind. Maybe the most obvious one is that we are unapologetically Christian-based. There are a few other faith-based treatment facilities in the province. Another component is the value that we place on moving a person towards independence. One of our core statements is, "We will not do for our participants what they are capable of doing for themselves." This value confronts the "savior mentality" among many in the care-giving fields. If our value is rooted in what we can do for others, we will keep doing for others what they should be doing for themselves. Both people stay stuck when that happens. Creating independence is a high value for us, but it's not our secret sauce.

Many of our participants would say one of the things they appreciate the most about Rising Above is how they genuinely feel loved, accepted, and cared for by the staff. That certainly is something that stands out about our staff. They love what they do and love the people they serve. That's still not the secret sauce.

If you've been around Rising Above or talked to a participant about what impacted them the most about the program, you likely heard the phrase "Inner Healing." That is our secret sauce, except it's not a secret; we want everyone to experience it. Many of our participants have been to several other treatment facilities, and they will comment that the difference is the focus of Rising Above is not on the symptoms of their pain (their current addiction) but rather on dealing with the source of the pain. Inner Healing is the unique process that gets to the root of their pain and provides a means for that to be healed. Frequently, a participant who had been evicted in the past will want to come back into the program. When we ask why they want to come back to Rising Above, they will often say, "Because I need the Inner Healing."

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Inner healing gets right to the root of the problem by exposing the lies we believe about ourselves, and then the opportunity to allow God's truth to bring healing and transformation. That's when freedom is experienced, and hope is reborn. That's what sets Rising Above apart.

You don't have to be part of the residential treatment program to experience inner healing. You can call our office at 780-533-3025 and book an appointment. More information about Inner Healing can be found on our website, risingabovegp.com.

If you are in the Grande Prairie area and would like some training on our Inner Healing model, I will be teaching the Healing Soul Wounds Course at Peace River Bible Institute this fall. Go to prbi.edu and look for the Faith-Based Addiction Treatment Program. Register soon, as the course starts on September 12.

Your ongoing support of Rising Above helps us provide this amazing "secret sauce" to those trapped in cycles of defeat. Thank you for supporting Rising Above.

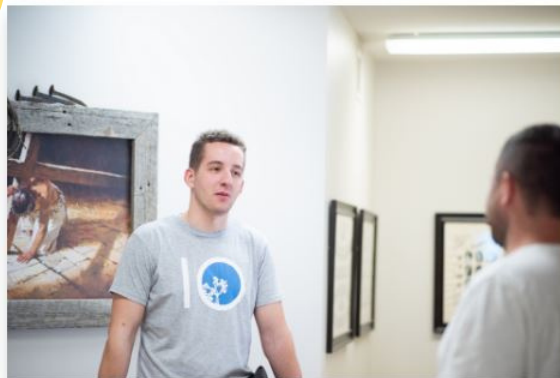
Blessings,

Mel Siggelkow

Visit prbi.edu to learn more about this program!

Faith Based Addictions Treatment Program

In cooperation with Rising Above Ministries, we are currently developing a new track designed to equip you to help others break free of cycles of defeat. This 10 credit program will be available both as a stand-alone certificate (for qualified students) and as a major for BRE students. Typically, we offer one 2-credit course per semester (not including internship).



Program Outline

This program consists of 9-10 credits of study, depending on whether it is taken as a standalone certificate or as a specialization in our Bachelor of Religious Education degree. Core courses are offered on a rotating basis, one course per semester

Courses:

- **Addictions Related Issues (2)**
- **Healing Soul Wounds (2)**
- **Understanding Addictions (2)**
- **Introduction to Counselling (2)**
- **Internship/Practicum (1-2)**- Depending on your program, you will complete either a 1 credit practicum (Certificate) or 2 credit internship (BRE).

Laurie's Story

Long before Rising Above took over the empty space that was once the Young Offenders Centre, Laurie found herself confined within these walls many years ago. At the age of 14, this experience marked the beginning of a series of similar stays across the province. While others were growing up in environments that encouraged learning, growth, and preparations for the "real world", Laurie spent her formative years institutionalized which became her reality for many, many years. Remarkably, her story has come full circle as she returned to the very place where it all began. But this time, she walked through the doors of Rising Above at the age of 48.

Laurie's life had been marred by instability and unmanageability, driven by addiction and an unending cycle of incarceration, institutions, and brushes with death. Substance abuse had become a constant companion, propelling her into a vicious cycle of repeated jail time, legal interventions, and a continuous downward spiral. Amidst this tumultuous journey, she kept hearing about Rising Above, a program that remained on her mind.

Laurie had experienced the harsh realities of prison sentences, including an 8-year term in 1992 that concluded in June 2000. But even after this period of incarceration, her struggles were far from over. For nine years, she found herself on the streets of East Hastings in Vancouver, trapped in a cycle of drugs, chaos, and despair. During those times, correctional facilities offered little in terms of assistance; detox programs were a rarity, and the agony of withdrawal was endured in isolation.

In 2009, Laurie's daughter reached out for help with her newborn baby. She recognized that she was in no condition to provide support and decided it was time to tread a different path. Laurie applied to a program through Northern Addiction Centre and managed to maintain sobriety for a year and a half. However, the journey of recovery was anything but linear, and she found herself falling back into the clutches of addiction, crime, and sickness. The notion that her life was destined to be consumed by drugs seemed almost unavoidable.

Laurie was back in the lifestyle for another 7 years before deciding to check in to Rising Above. "It was more than just a conventional approach; it emphasized a holistic transformation beyond addiction. The program focused on community, emotions, and personal growth." Though it wasn't an easy journey, facing overwhelming emotions became the mountain she was determined to climb. Although initially resistant, Laurie decided to stay and understand the significance of embracing these "feelings" which was a foreign concept to her.

The turning point arrived when she realized she didn't want to become another statistic—a life lost to addiction. This time, her commitment to change wasn't contingent on the prospect of release. Rising Above illuminated a path that encompassed more than just breaking free from drugs; it was about building relationships, connecting with the community, and exploring the depths of her emotions while mending the brokenness between family members.

Laurie found a revelation in understanding relationships and communication. For someone who had once struggled to be around people, this marked a significant transformation. Laurie's perspective on life shifted; she now saw the potential for a life fully lived, embracing her role in her grandchildren's lives, and making positive contributions.

Her goals painted a picture of renewal and purpose. Laurie now aimed to obtain a driver's license, symbolizing a responsibility she had previously disregarded. The significance of having identification had transformed from indifference to importance. Her aspirations reached beyond personal achievements; she dreams of establishing a safe haven for others—a sanctuary that would prevent people from being forced onto the streets. Laurie understands that helping others requires first helping oneself.

Laurie encourages others grappling with addiction to seek transformation. Rising Above had shattered her belief in a life confined to prisons, institutions, and death. The program's structure had been instrumental in her journey, providing guidance and focus. With newfound connections to family and a love that embraced her, Laurie is living proof that hope is not just for some, but for all.



**REACH
96.3 FM**

**RISING ABOVE
SHARE-A-THON**

09.20.2023 6AM-6PM

ON AIR



**BBQ by donation
11-1pm at Park Campus
11007 106 street**

LEARN

Join us live on air as we share about our ministry from 6am-6pm!

LISTEN

Tune into 96.3 Reach FM on Wednesday, September 20th

DONATE

Support our ministry by donating online, over the phone, or by visiting us in person!

Want to work with us?

We're looking for a Mental Health Coordinator!

Rising Above is looking for an experienced mental health professional to help create a new aspect to the service we provide. This is a half-time position. We are looking for someone who is registered in their respective field, has at least 5 years experience, and a minimum of a bachelor degree (social work or psychology) or psych nursing designation.

If you're interested, please email rick@risingabovegp.com to receive a copy of the job description and to start the application process.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DONATE, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE, GIVE US A CALL, OR COME VISIT US IN PERSON! FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO STAY UP-TO-DATE ON THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT RISING ABOVE!

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?
CONNECT WITH BURDEEN AT RISING ABOVE!
BURDEEN@RISINGABOVEGP.COM

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Join Executive Director, Mel Siggelkow, as he answers important questions that will help you understand...

- The stages of grief
- The story of grief
- The reality of loss
- Steps to embracing grief
- and moving forward

UNDERSTANDING GRIEF

Tuesday, September 26th @ 7pm
Rising Above
11007 106 street, Grande Prairie

Coming Oct 20-22 to a parking lot near you...

Stay tuned for the official event on our website and Facebook page!

**RISING HIGHER:
CRANE EVENT
WITH DAN RIGLER**

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

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