



The Car Is On Fire!

Reflecting the glow of recovery from Starlight at Tamassee

By Jon Holland, CEO of Tamassee DAR School



During college I owned a 1984 Nissan 300ZX. I loved taking the T-tops out while driving with the wind in my hair. I didn't know – until it was too late – that Nissan had issued a recall for the fuel injectors on my 15-year-old sports car. My new wife and I were driving home one afternoon on WT Harris Boulevard in Charlotte when thin wisps of smoke began wafting out of the gear shifter. She mentioned it with a note of fear in her voice, and like an idiot I said, "It's alright." Then the smoke got thicker and started billowing out of the vents. She screamed, and I stopped in the middle of a six-lane thoroughfare during rush hour. With cars whizzing by and horns honking, I opened the hood to find my engine engulfed in flames. The situation was more than a little unmanageable.

Addiction is like my car being on fire. I ignored the warning signs, and by the time I stopped to pay attention to the problem, it was out of control. Those of us who struggle with addiction have the same kind of experience. There are signs of the problem and loved ones who share their concerns, but we ignore them. Then things

really get out of hand, and life has gone haywire. As the First Step of the 12 Steps says, “We admitted that we were powerless over our problems and that our lives had become unmanageable.”



Unmanageability comes in all kinds of ways. Addiction does incredible damage to the human body. It impedes neurological function and can permanently damage our brain. Various addictions are linked to numerous serious health conditions. Addiction can easily lead to illegal behavior, from buying or selling drugs, to driving under the influence, to violence. The addictive lifestyle has painful effects on our emotions and thought life. From the cycle of shame to negative beliefs about ourselves. Then there’s the relational toll. The people we love the most are the ones we hurt the most. Broken promises, disappointments, severed friendships, and much more flow from our out-of-control use. We may drop out of school or get fired from a job. Financial difficulties pile up. Wasted income, legal fees, unpaid bills, medical treatments, rehab programs, evictions, and repossessions. The spiritual cost is high too. A strained relationship with God, the guilt of living inconsistently with our own values, and the loss of community all isolate us from the One who loves us most.

But there is hope! The fire truck arrived and put out the flames in my engine well. The wrecker towed my 300ZX to the dealership. Nissan fixed the failed fuel injectors, and I drove my car again. Yes, addiction makes our lives unmanageable, and we must admit we’ve made them so. But humble surrender opens the door to repair. At Starlight at Tamassee, we believe mothers who have made life unmanageable for themselves and their children can find hope and transformation. To learn more about Starlight, visit www.starlight.tdarschool.org, or contact us at starlight@tdarschool.org or 864-944-1390.

Starlight
MIRACLES AWAIT AT TAMASSEE