



Bio: Eric Smith

Born in Chattanooga, Tenn., Reverend Eric Smith already had one strike against him. He had a severe stutter. It affected every area of his life. As he grew, he realized he needed to overcome “the roaring lion of rejection” caused by his stuttering. So, he deliberately took jobs that forced him to talk. He held jobs as a waiter, a real estate agent, a banking professional, and many others. Later, he served in the U.S. Navy for eight years. He is currently a disabled veteran.

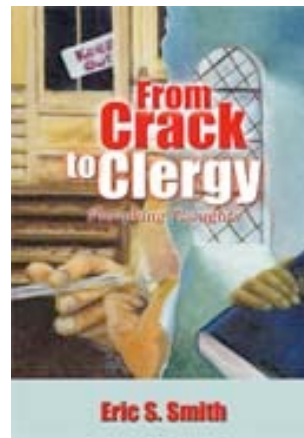
Eric Smith presently owns a full-service painting company called The Caring Painters. He founded the non-profit organizations, The Loving Care Center that serves the elderly confined to skilled nursing facilities and the Loving Care Outreach Church that serves the public, particularly those in need. Mr. Smith’s education includes two years of Ethnic Studies at Grossmont College, and two years of study at Christian Heritage College where he received his B.S. degree in Human Development. Rev. Smith entered the ministry in 1999, and he started a church called the Loving Care Outreach Ministry.

From the Foreword

“There are many nuggets of insight in this publication. Mr. Smith artfully demonstrates that ‘coming apart to come together,’ continues to be one of life’s quintessential lessons. I deeply appreciate the quality of his commitment to make a real difference in the lives of others.”

~Norman E. Chambers, Ph.D

Clinical Psychologist, Multicultural Counseling Consulting Center, San Diego, California



From Crack to Clergy: Provoking Thoughts

From Crack to Clergy is a book about a very difficult journey through life. Take the journey with Eric as he grows up in the South with a severe stutter—facing each day with inner courage while poverty robs him, fears chase him, people deny him, racism smothers him, and drugs finally control him. Readers feel the pain and triumph as Eric overcomes bad starts, fears, weaknesses, and addictions. Eventually, a different journey begins for Eric, and the readers, when Faith saves him.

Also within the book are many poems that ask questions and challenge each reader to think in new ways.

A couple of paragraphs from *Crack to Clergy: Provoking Thoughts*:

“.... Eventually, I parked outside the shop crying-shaking-hurting-fearing, because of what would happen if I got my hands on Fifteen Hundred Dollars. Finally, I pulled myself together enough to run in for my check without much interaction. Quickly I returned to my vehicle and sat there in a stage of wonderment unable to start the engine and move for fear of using again. I never made it home.

To that end, I worked each day with thoughts of using again as soon as possible. I did. At the same time, there was always a feeling of guilt and shame for my actions. I never ceased to pray and hope to overcome somehow. Strangely during this time of disconnectedness, a map was being formed in my head showing how to use this experience of drug addiction for the betterment of the people and the will of God, for this is the will of God.” (pg. 15)

Eric’s website: www.fromcracktoclergy.com



Bio: Carl D. Smith

The Reverend Carl Smith, ordained as a minister in 1999, struggled through years of addiction, incarceration and homelessness as a young man. A California boy who enlisted in the Navy in his teens, Carl became addicted to heroin while he was stationed in Guam. The addiction shattered his early life, and many felt he had no hope or future. But in 1991, Carl found his way into a Teen Challenge center, where he discovered a new life and a kingdom purpose. After graduating from the Teen Challenge Ministry Institute in 1994, Carl saw God work through him and the other crewmembers of “The Spirit of Grace”, an ex-Navy ship, belonging to the world wide humanitarian organization called “*Friendships.*”

Currently, Carl is a minister at San Diego Teen Challenge, where for the last twelve years, he has taught bible classes and counseled men struggling with addictions. Carl is happiest when he is preaching to men in the drug and alcohol rehabilitation center, speaking to youngsters in Juvenile Hall, or participating in local outreach in the community. He is married to a Swedish born missionary, Helen, and they have one beautiful red-haired daughter, Moa. Carl is living proof that Jesus can and does change lives.

Foreword

“This story is one of miracles and a transformed life. I can remember sitting down with Carl as he told me his life story, and it was like watching a movie. He has had so many adventures packed into his one life. As I read the pages of this book, I saw in my mind’s eye the ship he was on, his encounters with the law and the miraculous

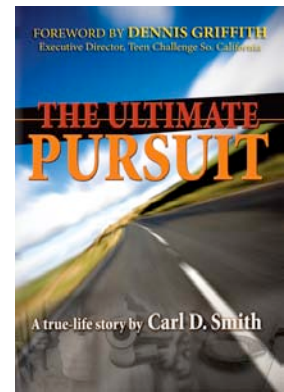
transformation of his life. You will enjoy reading his gripping life story.

Through my 33 years with Teen Challenge and my six years as a commissioner with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, I know and

have seen people break away from the horrors of drug addiction and find a new life. Few have a story that is as inspiring as Carl’s.”

~**Dennis Griffith**

Executive Director, Teen Challenge Southern California
Teen Challenge USA Representative to Washington, DC



Endorsement from back cover of the book:

“Carl Smith shares his remarkable and deeply personal story in this important book which is captivating, realistic and moving. This is an autobiography that absorbs and entertains, while it is profoundly inspirational. It will strike a deep chord with those in dire straits, and who are thinking of giving up. Carl Smith’s story provides stirring, powerful messages about Heart and Faith.”

~ **Saul Levine, M.D.**

Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Rady Children’s Hospital and Health Center Professor and Director, Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry UCSD

A couple of paragraphs from *The Ultimate Pursuit*:

“I was in the prime of my youth, strong as a lion and felt that nothing could stop me. One day a roommate asked me if I wanted to party a little.... ‘Just sniff this little bit of powder. It’s China White, and it will make you feel so good.’ ...and one day I thought, what could it hurt one time? I took about a match head of it, sniffed it up my nose, and went into a dream-like euphoria that I did not want to come back from. Before that first ‘high’ was over, I wanted more.” (pg. 21)

“It was another beautiful, warm day.... I ran up the gangway of the ship nearly losing my balance...when suddenly, I heard a voice that stopped me in my footsteps. The voice, I had learned by now, belonged to God. He simply said, ‘There is your wife.’” (pg. 131)

Carl's website: www.theultimatepursuit.com



Bio: Art Lyons

Author Art Lyons felt called to the ministry, after his conversion at the age of 20, which saved him from a life of drug abuse, alcoholism, and periodic jail time. He has served as a Chaplain in correctional facilities in San Diego County, CA since 1980. Chaplain Lyons is founder and director of the non-profit organization, Re-Entry Prison and Jail Ministry. He has completed the Institute of Chaplaincy Studies at Vision International University (VIU) and has earned a Master's degree in Theological Studies & Counseling from VIU. Chaplain Lyons is presently working on his Doctorate of Ministry.

A paragraph from *Our Lives in Recovery*:

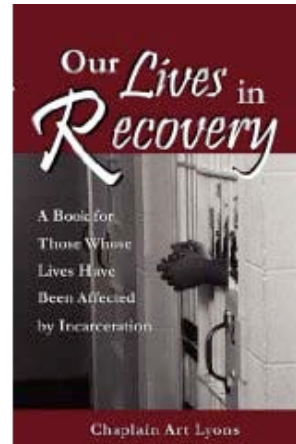
"I have met many people in jail, prison, and recovery homes who have finally given in to that "rubber band" of God's love. And know this—if you are currently resisting God's calling in your life—the further you stretch away, the more problems you will have to resolve when you return back to God." (pg. 15)

Endorsement from back cover of the book:

Our Lives in Recovery, A Book for Those Whose Lives Have Been Affected by Incarceration covers the core areas of recovery for those dealing with incarceration. Chaplain Art Lyons has been ministering in correctional facilities for over 30 years, and he uses this wealth of experience to address the emotional, spiritual, and practical needs for inmates and their families through this book. His mix of formal and informal writing styles, Biblical quotes, and the use of pertinent practical applications and illustrations keeps the reader interested and engaged. This book will be an effective and powerful instrument in the lives of many.

Join God in an adventure of healing and restoration. Change your life from an addiction to drugs and other habits to an addiction to the freedom of life with Jesus Christ!

~Diana Hall, Writer/Editor



Review on Amazon.com:

"Before you even start this book, you should read the testimony of Art Lyons, (page 121-130). This chapter will give you insights into some of the many reasons why I think Art Lyons was prepared, personally and professionally, by the Lord to publish this book.

The book addresses eight key areas that seem to trip-up those coming out of incarceration and addictive lifestyles. When I read this book, I appreciated the fact that Chaplain Lyons has eliminated the "fluff"—it is written in a simple and direct format that will have a powerful affect on those that apply its principles.

Do you want practical and scriptural applications to follow on your road to a more successful, peaceful life? Then get this book for yourself or someone you love."

Art's website: www.reentry.org

We all have been saved from alcohol and drug addiction, and we are all now ministers here in San Diego County. We will be having a book signing at Berean Christian Stores on Saturday, May 22, 2010; (11 am—2 pm); 8807 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego, 858-292-8052.

