

Great Need for Prayer!

Shared by Rev. Stephen Llewellyn

Twenty seconds is all it took to kill 19-year-old Dustin Manning. A toxicology report found he had taken a toxic mix of heroin and fentanyl, a synthetic opioid so powerful it is often fatal. The amount in his body was the equivalent to **three grains of salt**. That's all it took to kill a 180-pound guy.

His dad had told him he would get him up early for work. When he opened the door to his room, it looked like Dustin was tying his shoes. Very quickly his dad realized something was wrong, grabbed him, but found that he was cold. He called 911, but it was too late.

Less than an hour later, another phone call was made to the same 911. A half a mile down the road, 18-year-old Joseph Abraham was found slumped on the floor by his parents. He had no pulse. His dad yelled for him wake up; his mom ran to hold him, but he was cold. As his dad called 911, his mom knew it was too late. She knew they couldn't fix this.

The two boys were childhood friends. They played on the same Little League team. Joseph's father had been their coach for two years. In middle school they both began to dabble in drugs.

The Abrahams believe their son had his first dose of opioids when he had his wisdom teeth removed. He was prescribed the drugs again when he broke his ankle and then later for his hand playing sports. His mom believes Joseph turned to drugs after dealing with two major tragedies at a young age.

Joseph had lost two of his really good friends in eighth grade – one to cancer and one to a drowning. He really had a hard time. He struggled with it. At the age of 12, Dustin told his parents he felt like he was suffering from depression. He soon started drinking beer and taking drugs. His mom said he had told them the drugs gave him 'the out' and made him feel good. Both parents sought help from treatment centers, not once, but time and time again for both of their sons. Dustin's mom even started working at one of the centers to keep an eye on her son and better understand addiction. But Joseph's dad said the treatments weren't enough to fight his son's battle.

Once they take opioids, there's a switch in their brain that gets flipped on – and to get that switch flipped back could take up to five years, and most treatments are 35 days and they're back out. According to both sets of parents, Dustin and Joe hadn't been in touch in recent years, yet it appears they may have bought the drug that killed them from the same dealer. According to police records, some of the pill wrappings were almost identical.

As the parents started to gain insight into the world of opioid addiction, they realized that getting the drug is fast and easy. Like most parents, they had high hopes for their beloved sons and their great potential. Dustin had wanted to go in the service and be a Marine. Joe was a sensitive young man, he was funny, he had a big heart. He loved to fish, he loved to be outside and hike. He could have done anything he wanted. He was very smart, in advanced classes.

This happened within 18 houses of each other to two young men on the same morning. Last year about 64,000 Americans died from opioids. This is **more than** the number of Americans killed in car accidents or by guns combined.

The world turns to treatment centers, which have seemingly helped some. The **Body of Christ has the answer!** We **must pray** and **intercede** for our **youth** and **those bound** by addiction! It is **our duty!** God has mandated that the Body of Christ stand in the gap. Pray, pray,

pray for our youth and everyone bound! **We CAN and WILL make a change** if we obey God and **PRAY!**