

Recovery from Substance Misuse: Pastoral Care, Counselling, and Treatment Part 2

Although rates of substance abuse vary across Europe, millions of lives are ruined in the grip of various substances. In the UK, up to half of young people have tried an illegal drug by the age of 16 and some post-conflict states struggle with their own unique legacies of drugs and alcohol. In these sessions we explore the nature and harmful effects of the leading substances of abuse and ask what we can learn from some of the common approaches to recovery. We reflect on personal testimony of recovery and the place of biblical teaching on repentance, idolatry, grace, and community in supporting those caught up in addictive behaviours.

Dusan Beredi is a church pastor who brings considerable experience in the care and recovery of those addicted to drugs and alcohol to this years' Network. His church hosts a residential rehabilitation centre for addicts on heroin, other drugs and alcohol and, besides his general pastoral work, Dusan is one of the founders and leaders of the centre.

I. Situation in Serbia – drug addiction and reaction of church

A. Personal experience (Protestant Christian Fellowship and “Rainbow” rehabilitation center)

II. Treatment

A. Program

1. Involvement of “ex addicts”
2. Support groups
3. Work activities
4. Phases of progress

5. Involvement of church

6. Involvement of family

B. Daily schedule

C. Approach to addicts

III. Church open to addicts – challenges and blessings

IV. Challenges and blessings - after six years of work