



Robert Burr - a/k/a Digital Grandpa

Founder's Intro

My name is Robert Burr and though my ancestry descends from European Jewry I was raised in a nominal Christian home where I came to know Jesus as a historical figure wrapped in a philosophical book called the Bible. My early interactions with Christianity required no faith or belief, just a willingness to accept that He was the Son of God and that His Father was responsible for creating all I was, could see, hear, taste or touch because He alone is the Father of all, who is to be reverently feared for His holiness and sound judgement of both the quick and the dead. A reality I would soon embrace at a tender age.

Early Loss & Divine Calling

Indeed, I was nearly 14 years old when my mother died from Uterine Cancer on August 21, 1976, leaving me and my brother, Scott, in the hands of our biological father who was, in retrospect, as scared as we were to face the journey ahead on our own, but together we muddled through and came out the other side mostly intact and for me, very much aware that this Jesus was far more than a historical figure in a philosophical book.

In fact, I came to know His still small voice well in the seasons that soon followed her passing and then, sadly, within a few short years thereafter I grew into a man that sought to conquer this world on his own terms, often without concern for the moral implications of the path I was now hurdling down at breakneck speed.



🚢 Navy Service & Supernatural Encounter

To escape the shackles of my rural roots in northwestern Massachusetts I joined the Navy and proudly served with distinction from 81-87. During this chapter there were several incidents where a wrong choice could have easily led to my death, but looking back I now see His protective hand guiding and sheltering me from my own arrogance and carnal ambitions.

It was also during my naval service that I experienced my strongest encounter with the Holy Spirit an experience so profound it would remain locked in my heart for decades.



After struggling with the conflict between my faith and the life I was living, I found myself speaking with our ship's Chaplain about my spiritual turmoil. As our conversation ended, he laid his hand on my shoulder and prayed for my continued growth and adherence to the faith I was living in conflict with. What happened next defied every rational explanation I possessed.

✨ A powerful lifting of my burdens washed over me, as if every weight I had been carrying was suddenly removed from my shoulders. My body became weightless in that chair—not metaphorically, but literally. When I stood to leave, I could not feel myself touch the floor beneath my feet. It was as though I was floating, suspended between earth and heaven.

Unreal Sensation

This supernatural sensation continued as I walked through the ship's corridors, my feet making contact with the deck but my body feeling completely disconnected from physical reality.

Floating in the Rack

I made my way to my berthing compartment in this otherworldly state, laid down in my rack, and still could not feel my body against the mattress. It was as if I existed in a space between the physical and spiritual realms.

Desire to Remain

I went to sleep that night thinking if this was what it was like to be in His presence—this complete freedom from the weight of the world—I didn't want to wake up and return to earthly burdens. But of course I did wake, and I was too intimidated by the profound nature of that encounter to speak with anyone about it until decades later.

Sadly, even this miraculous touch from heaven was just a brief reprieve, for I would not yet surrender the reins of my life to Him.



Building the American Dream

The years following my Navy return set me on a familiar path toward what I believed was the American dream. My journey took several turns, from working for the Non-Commissioned Officer Association in Hawaii to driving a transit bus back home, before a pivotal recruitment by John Hancock Financial Services.



Financial Career & Expansion

I quickly transitioned into a registered representative, passing my Series 6 & 63 licensure. When my local office closed, I ventured out on my own, establishing Pinnacle Insurance Agency. This expanded into investment banking and meaningful NGO work with Operation Share, an endeavor that even earned a "1000 Points of Light" award from President Bush.



Building an Empire


I married, became a father, and poured myself into building this empire. It often kept me away from home, but I felt compelled to pursue the American fantasy where perception dictated reality, and my job was to fund that "reality." It was a national delusion, serving a greater plan of global dominance and wealth redistribution. However, the true consequences of this pursuit would soon hit much closer to home for my family and me.

⚠️ ⚠️ Scripture tells us there is a way that seems right to man but leads to his destruction. At age 40 I had achieved the American fantasy. I was by all carnal accounts a "self-made-man" who had clawed his way up from hardscrabble roots to become a hero to some and a fierce competitor to be feared by others.

Worse, in my own mind, I had become King of this empire and my ego evolved with it to a point that I, like Lucifer, embraced the folly that I too was a God in my own right and would even say so when asked, but it was this pride that served to be the harbinger of my ignominious fall from society in 2003.

The Fall & Impossible Choice

Given an untenable choice to plead guilty to white collar crimes I did not commit, or watch my family be destroyed from behind jailhouse bars, I made the decision as a father and husband to plead guilty and thereby empower them to go on with their lives, which cost me 14 years of my own in the North Carolina prison system.

 This was nearly 30 years ago, when much of government manipulation and corruption was hidden from the public, and people still believed in justice. But what happened to me back then is really no different than the current revelations coming out about rampant corruption and weaponization of government against its citizens for political and financial gain. The system that crushed me was the same system we now see exposed daily in the news —I was just ahead of the curve in experiencing its true nature.



Prison: The Breaking & Remaking

But the story, His story, for my life was just beginning. Indeed, what many, including myself saw as an irrecoverable end to this life's journey, He used to bring me to the end of my self.

When I arrived at Mountainview Correctional Institution, I was broken and weeping in my cell, convinced that my life was over. But it was there, in that concrete box of despair, that He returned to me with an extended hand to reassure me that I was not beyond His touch.

Over the years that followed, He rebuilt me to be the man He created me to be and gave me a greater purpose to love and serve others both inside and beyond the prison yard I was forced to walk. I served my fellow prisoners as:



Chaplain's clerk

Supporting spiritual needs of inmates



Librarian

Helping men pursue education and legal research



GED tutor

For those who had never finished school



Teaching assistant

In various programs

Each role became a classroom where God taught me that ministry isn't about position or title—it's about meeting people in their brokenness and walking alongside them toward wholeness.

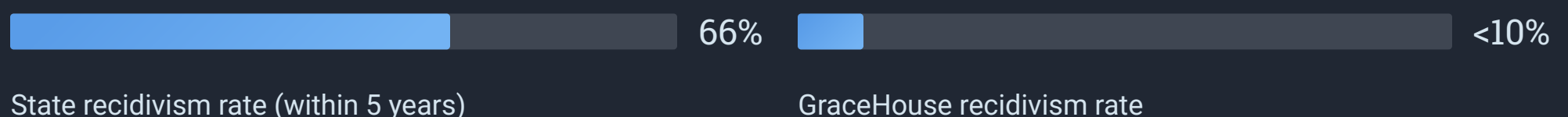


GraceHouse: From Broken to Bridge

Following my release in 2017, I drew the free breath of new life in Him that only He can provide. My life, my very being was like the metaphorical 'starfish' whom the little boy picks up on the beach and mercifully throws back into the water. Collectively, my godly sponsors and the church ministries who supported them were the people who helped me to grow, and I now worked alongside them as a minister of encouragement to others who were, like myself, in transition as we reentered a cold society that neither understood nor appreciated the challenges faced by the fallen among us.

But God's work for me was far from finished. Shortly after my release, He laid upon my heart the vision for GraceHouse Transitional Ministries—a faith-based reentry program that would provide housing, support, and spiritual mentorship to men like myself who had nowhere else to go after incarceration. GraceHouse became a bridge between prison and purpose, rooted in dignity, accountability, and community healing.

For several years, we served numerous men who society had written off, helping them find work, regain family connections, and rebuild their lives on the solid foundation of Christ. The program thrived as we witnessed transformation after transformation—men who entered broken and hopeless leaving with renewed purpose and restored relationships.



While specific numbers are difficult to quantify because success is measured in numerous ways, perhaps the most profound indicator of our impact was our recidivism rate: whereas state statistics show 66% of released inmates return to prison within five years, our graduates maintained a recidivism rate of less than 10%.

It was exactly what I believed God had called me to do with my second chance at life. We were making a tangible difference, one soul at a time, in our corner of Durham, North Carolina.

COVID Crisis & Divine Redirection



Unprecedented Challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic brought unforeseen restrictions, funding shortages, and health regulations, making it impossible to safely continue GraceHouse operations in close quarters and maintain our effective community model.



Strategic Transition

In January 2021, I made the difficult decision to step down as Managing Director, allowing GraceHouse to continue under skilled leadership better equipped to navigate the crisis. This transition enabled dozens more men and women to successfully transition from incarceration into society. A legacy that lives on to this day.

Return to the Mountains & Family

A Wilderness Season

After stepping down from GraceHouse, I experienced a period of great difficulty, losing much and struggling to make ends meet. This "wilderness season" was not of my own making, but divinely orchestrated to bring me to the end of myself, much like my earlier imprisonment.

Guided Back Home

As I prepared to move back to my boyhood home in the mountains of northwestern Massachusetts, I wrestled with what felt like another ending. Yet, I heard a familiar voice whispering a new direction: if I couldn't serve through traditional structures, I was called to reach beyond them.

Reuniting with Family & New Calling

Returning home was foremost about reuniting with my son, John, who faces challenges with Asperger's Syndrome. It was in these familiar hills, reuniting with him, that the concept of "Digital Grandpa" was truly born—a new mission field, proving that sometimes we must return to our beginnings to find our next steps.





Digital Grandpa: A New Kind of Mission Field

Out of this wilderness came the creation of Digital Grandpa in 2023—not another ministry, but a mission field where I could mentor, guide, and walk alongside people around the world who were facing their own seasons of crisis and transition.



Wisdom & Kindness

I chose the name "Digital Grandpa" because grandparents are wise and always kind, able to help based on their experience.



Non-Judgmental Approach

This is the attitude I take—non-judgmental, open to listen no matter what, and able to give sage advice on how to overcome and move past most circumstances.



Global Reach

I began to write again, pouring my life experiences, struggles, and spiritual growth into resources that could reach those I would never meet face to face.

I recorded videos, shared hard-won wisdom, and offered authentic guidance that transcended denominational boundaries or religious affiliations.

This marked the birth of mission fields over ministries in my understanding—because mission fields are real, while religions are man-made, each often serving as a control device over the communities they claim to serve.

Digital Grandpa operates neither as a non-profit nor with support from religious organizations. In fact, we heartily welcome people of any faith or no faith at all, as I've come to learn that spirituality is a deeply personal journey, and one that can only be embraced on their own terms.

Digital Grandpa became a virtual lighthouse for those in crisis—especially men seeking meaning after hardship, failure, or loss. What I had learned in prison about resilience, what I had discovered about God's faithfulness through my fall and restoration, and what I had witnessed through years of traditional programs could now serve a global community of over 1200 souls from all walks of life, regardless of their religious background. The platform grew as people hungry for authentic guidance found a grandfather figure who understood their pain because he had walked through his own valley of shadows.

Rise & Reclaim Community: The Movement Grows

As Digital Grandpa grew and the community deepened over the next two years, God opened another door: Rise & Reclaim Community, launching in 2025 as a separate but complementary mission field designed to welcome survivors, veterans, seekers, and freedom fighters from all backgrounds who understand that true transformation requires more than positive thinking—it demands authentic community, personal accountability, and a willingness to let past pain become the forge of future purpose.



Authentic Community

A space where survivors, veterans, seekers, and freedom fighters from all backgrounds find genuine support for rebuilding their lives.



Personal Accountability

Offers practical wisdom and mentorship for transforming past pain into future purpose, transcending trauma, loss, or addiction.



Economic Empowerment & Legacy

Blends personal development with tools to help individuals thrive, leveraging their scars to empower others and ensure the movement's lasting impact.

Rise & Reclaim Community operates on the same principles as Digital Grandpa—it's neither a nonprofit nor religiously affiliated organization, but rather a space where people of any faith or no faith can find genuine support and practical wisdom for rebuilding their lives after trauma, loss, addiction, or any of the countless ways life can bring us to our knees.

This community blends mentorship, personal development, and economic empowerment into a transformational path for those ready to stop merely surviving and start truly living. It's where broken men and women discover that their scars don't disqualify them from significance—they become the very credentials that allow them to help others walking similar paths.

With mobile outreach efforts scheduled to become active in 2026, this is becoming a movement designed to transcend me and continue long after I'm gone—which is exactly as it should be. The principles and transformational power we've witnessed will impact lives for generations to come, carried forward by the very people who have found healing and purpose in these mission fields.





Full Circle: The Starfish Principle

Looking back now, I can see His hand in every chapter—even the painful departure from GraceHouse. What seemed like an ending was actually a beginning, a pruning that would allow for greater fruitfulness. The same God who used my imprisonment to break my pride and rebuild my character used a global pandemic to expand my reach beyond what I could have imagined through any single physical location.

Today, through Digital Grandpa and Rise & Reclaim Community, the mission continues to grow into something greater than any one person could build or sustain. While I continue to support the Messianic Faith Alliance and honor the spiritual foundations that have anchored my entire journey, our reach now extends far beyond denominational boundaries, touching lives across the nation and around the world through the digital bridges God has enabled us to build.

Scripture reminds us that "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Every season—the prideful rise, the humbling fall, the years of imprisonment, the joy of restoration, the success of GraceHouse, the pain of departure, and the birth of these new mission fields—has been part of His perfect plan to prepare me for such a time as this.

My life remains like that metaphorical starfish, but now I understand that my rescue from the beach wasn't just for my own salvation—it was so that I could help throw others back into the life-giving waters of His grace and purpose. Whether through the physical walls of GraceHouse or the digital connections of our current work, the mission remains the same: to love and serve others in transition, to be a bridge between their pain and their purpose, and to demonstrate that no fall is too far for God's redemptive power to reach.

This movement will continue to grow and impact lives long after I'm gone, carried forward by the transformed lives of those who have found healing, purpose, and community in these mission fields. That is both the plan and the promise—that broken people, when touched by grace, become the very instruments of healing for others walking the same difficult path.

Our unfolding stories can be seen by visiting us at Digital Grandpa and Rise & Reclaim Community, and I encourage you to support the work we're doing within our communities and beyond through your prayers and resources. *This said we never solicit tax-deductible donations, as we are not a 501(c)3, ministry, nor supported by any religious organization. Our sustenance and revenues are derived from the [Digital Grandpa Store](#) and membership fees paid to the [Rise & Reclaim Community](#). Visit us often to see what's new.*

I remain respectfully His servant,

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Websites:

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