Hey Rock,

 I wanted to share some information with you about Kratom that you talked about in your last newsletter. I am unfortunately first hand familiar with it because it was one of the things that Chris became addicted to. You may already know some of this, but if not, maybe you can use some of this information to help the people and family of those who come to you for help.

Initially the full substance Kratom was being sold over the counter in liquid form. This supposedly got banned in its full form. At that point the "shots" cost about [$20](https://www.facebook.com/transformationranch/messages/) a bottle. When that happened, Kratom was slightly changed in its makeup and was/and still is renamed on the ingredient list of many of these "shots". Chris spent between [$10](https://www.facebook.com/transformationranch/messages/) to [$80](https://www.facebook.com/transformationranch/messages/) a day on this garbage. The one to the last of my knowledge on the subject that was most popular is called Viva Zen. Although it was banned in TN, it is still sold at most gas stations around town, some right by the register in hands reach of any adult or teenager and says "feel good" on the label, so at any point anyone who walks into most gas stations in the area that feels like they just want a relief or to "feel good" and the addiction has begun. frown emoticon It makes me sick each time I see it, right there on the counter...

In studying about it after I found out Chris was having a problem with it, I found a chat page of people that were trying to get off of it...people that had lost everything. One of the withdraw effects several people mentioned was being delusional. When Chris told me he was trying to come off of it the last time (at the beginning of the year during 21 Days of Prayer) delusional was an understatement on what he was...which after talking to other people there was probably a lot more going on with him or that he was into.

For Chris who had a past addiction of really bad stuff, I believe Kratom was the gateway that lead him back to it when he got laid off. With Kratom being a synthetic opiate (or as I called it, liquid lortab) for people with "darker" demons, it can be the unknown gateway that leads them back down that path.

Another thing you may know, if not, it may be something parents with kids in rehab may need to be aware of... is that in a lot of rehab facilities they do not test for this when doing drug tests. I was told it cost a lot more to test for this on top of the regular drug tests, so not many of them test for it...so this "liquid lortab" is an easy go to for those in rehab.

Here is a local news article about it. It was also mentioned on the "What's Happening in Vestavia" facebook page, where (without mentioning any names) I shared some information about it to help bring awareness to it.

Oh and Chris use to pull the label off the bottle so it looks like a 5 hour energy bottle. He could also stop at the gas station, go in and buy it and shoot it right there in the gas station and throw the bottle away while inside and walk out with a coke in his hand like that is what he stopped for.

Hope this helps.

<http://wiat.com/2015/06/08/addiction-in-a-bottle-liquid-kratom-available-in-at-gas-stations-in-birmingham/>

**[Addiction in a bottle; liquid Kratom available at gas stations in Birmingham](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwiat.com%2F2015%2F06%2F08%2Faddiction-in-a-bottle-liquid-kratom-available-in-at-gas-stations-in-birmingham%2F&h=LAQGcTWd7&s=1" \t "_blank)**

[It's a drug that's illegal in four states, but you can buy it at gas stations in the greater Birmingham area right now. It's an energy shot containing something called Kratom.](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwiat.com%2F2015%2F06%2F08%2Faddiction-in-a-bottle-liquid-kratom-available-in-at-gas-stations-in-birmingham%2F&h=LAQGcTWd7&s=1" \t "_blank)

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