

# Teen Challenge Update

August 2007

## Midlands and Latvia: Connected by God

God has truly connected the hearts of Teen Challenge of the Midlands with those of Teen Challenge Latvia. In March, Bob Larson and Warren Hunsberger provided training to Teen Challenge staff in Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia. Warren taught on leadership, and Bob taught on program issues and intimacy with the Lord. Bob and Warren also spent a few



Latvia team with new center in background

many church members from First Assembly of God in Des Moines traveled to Latvia. This team worked hard helping to build part of the new Teen Challenge center in Latvia. The current center is an old barn with one room for beds and another room for their tables and wood stove. The team was able to erect the first floor of the new center and put the floor joists in place for the second floor! This center will have room for 25 students plus staff.

We are so excited to see the work God is doing in Eastern Europe, especially in and through Teen Challenge Latvia.



Modris, Latvian TC Director with Warren

days in Poland, preaching in a Teen Challenge church, touring the centers near Dansk, and meeting with the staff member who oversees their coffee house ministry.

In May, some of our Midlands staff as well as

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Search for Beef Continues...

We are looking for beef...beef of any kind.

If you or anyone you know would like to donate any type of processed beef or a whole cow (we will butcher and process it), please call Nathan Hamler at 515-674-3713 or e-mail him at [n.hamler@tcmid.org](mailto:n.hamler@tcmid.org).

Remember, cows aren't holy, but they sure are good to eat!



# Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

I am 48 years old and have been free from alcohol and drugs for approximately 345 days. The only reason I have stayed clean and sober is because of what my Lord, Jesus Christ has done in my life. Teen Challenge of the Midlands also helped me get back on track. Teen Challenge will take someone who feels like they're totally worthless and help them find Jesus. When the individual finds Christ, the process of change will begin.

I have worked in the construction business for 29 years. I thought that if I worked really hard all of my problems would go away, and I would get somewhere in life. Work had me addicted. I eventually earned my way to being the superintendent of a construction company. However, this position led me to having a lot of false pride. I thought I could do whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted, and I didn't care what I did as long as I was getting somewhere.

I used cocaine from 1980 until 2006. From 1995 until 2006 I used a more addictive form of cocaine known as crack-cocaine. Crack-Cocaine totally consumed me. I started out the way most people start. I used once a week, then twice a week, three times a week, and so on. Pretty soon, I was using every day. I would get some of the substance and go on two or three day benders, disappearing for a few days and using until all of it was gone. I have a beautiful wife of eighteen years. When I would go on these benders, my wife would lock me out of the house. I don't think that my wife wanted me coming into the house looking like a ghost who had been smoking crack for three days. I also have five beautiful children. I don't want my children to view their father as a drug addict who only cares for himself anymore. The things I did, such as smoking drugs and working all of the time, led me to be a very selfish person.



In 2006 I transferred to Salix, Iowa. I was abusing drugs every day and imbibing alcohol every night. I was very selfish, miserable, and alone at this point in my life. While working at the plant, I ran into a lady who would call in narcotic pain medication illegally to pharmacies in the area. She talked me into picking up the prescriptions for her. I didn't think a few pills for my pain would be any trouble. However, I was wrong. In August of 2006, I was arrested in Sioux City, Iowa for prescription fraud. Being arrested may have been the best thing that ever happened to me. God used this incident as a tool to open the eyes of my heart. Romans 8:8 tells us, "Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God."

I know that God has a purpose for my life. God has a purpose for all of our lives. God's plan for me became distorted when I first started abusing drugs. Another thing that caused me to be blinded from God's will was my disobedience to Him. Nevertheless, God had a plan of His own. God's plan led me to Teen Challenge of the Midlands in Colfax, Iowa. A boss I had worked for months before all of this happened told me about Teen Challenge, and I arrived at Teen Challenge of the Midlands in October of 2006. I really wanted and needed a change, but I didn't know how to go about it. Paul tells us that we can be bound up in chains by the enemy of our souls. God knew that if He got me to sit still for just a minute He could start softening my heart. Teen Challenge is God's answer to addiction. The way the Holy Spirit moves on peoples' lives is totally amazing. With God's help, you can live a life that is totally changed 180-degrees and upside down from where you are right now. God will be glorified through peoples' lives. Remember that you and I can help people who hurt. With God in our lives anything is possible.