



# The Challenger

July, 2005

## A Look into the Heart of the TC Board

Teen Challenge of the Midlands is blessed with a wonderful board whose members volunteer their time and energy to help this ministry. We wanted to take this opportunity to let you hear from three of our board members. What makes them tick and why do they serve this particular ministry? What is in the hearts of those who serve behind the scenes here at Teen Challenge?

Bob Wright, Jr. is an attorney with the Wright & Wright Law Offices of Des Moines. When asked why he serves on the Teen Challenge board, Bob said, "I've known Warren for a number of years. When he asked me to be a part of the board to give my legal perspective, I felt that I could play an important role." Bob has been a great asset to Teen Challenge over the years. His training in law has

**"Secular programs are just not working."**

-Jan Beal

definitely helped in giving the staff and board members some useful legal advice. Bob said that when he was growing up, he watched his father work in the field of law. He knew he wanted to do something in life that would help people, and law gave him a unique ability to do that. Bob said, "When I rededi-

cated my life to Christ after law school, I prayed, 'God, if someone needs help, send them to me.' God has certainly held me to this." When asked to give his perspective on the discipleship program, Bob replied,

**"...God is our source for everything."**

-Scotty Hord



Jan Beal of the Erickson Corporation

"It works because of the power of Jesus Christ. People don't realize that they can't overcome addictive power in their own strength. At Teen Challenge, they come to realize they need God to work in them. People ought to take a closer look at the program. The statistics bear out. It works."

As the president and owner of The Erickson Corporation

of Des Moines, Jan Beal has also played an important role on the board of Teen Challenge. Because Jan's background is in business and accounting, she said, "I'm a numbers person. I can understand the financial aspect of the ministry." Jan has also been a great help throughout our Capital Campaign, "Blueprint for Hope." As we have raised the needed funds to renovate the Teen Challenge property and to build new staff housing, Jan has been able to give her assistance since The Erickson Corporation is in the construction field. Jan said that serving on the board has strengthened her faith as she has watched how God provides financially for this ministry. Jan believes that everything she owns belongs to God, and that she is to be His steward. She said, "He's placed me here at work and on this board for a reason,... ..and by working and serving on this board, I'm serving His Kingdom. It's an opportunity to give my time and resources to God's work. It's a privilege and blessing." When asked why she serves, Jan replied, "I believe in the work of Teen Challenge. I've heard and read

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# SET FREE! – A Testimony of Hope

At a very young age, I saw my mother shoot my dad. I was confused. I thought, "If this is love, then I don't want it."

**"I saw my mom shoot my dad."**

Because of this, I started to build up walls of anger and bitterness around my heart.

Thankfully, my

father lived through this and stayed with my mom, but their marriage was very rocky. They constantly argued and fought.

My father started a motorcycle gang in the mid '60's. He would take us to church on his chopper, but he would never come in with us. Things got worse after some time. He would lose his temper, and it wasn't a pretty site. He started to bring his gang life home with him. One evening my mom came to check on us and found all of her children sleeping on the top bunk of our bed. One of my dad's gang members and another woman were occupying the bottom bunk. After this, my mom decided she had had enough and left my dad, taking us kids to Missouri. It was then that I started to build even more walls around my heart. I was bitter toward my mom for shooting my dad and for leaving him, and I was bitter toward my dad for loving his biker gang more than his own sons.

When we moved to Missouri, I met my grandma who took us to church. I believe that because of her prayers I am here today.

When I was old enough, I decided to go into the Air Force. This is when I stopped going to church and started my drinking and drugging. My drinking started to get me in trouble, but thankfully I was able to get an honorable discharge before I was kicked out. When I got out of the Air Force, I really began to party and rebel against any authorities in my life. I had many run-ins with the law. I've been to ten rehabs. I've received nine DUI's. I've been ticketed for driving with a revoked or suspended license six times. I've had two drug

charges: one for sales of a controlled substance and one for distribution of a controlled substance.

My anger and bitterness got even worse. My youngest brother was killed in a car accident and one of my other brothers was murdered. I blamed myself for their deaths because I wasn't there to protect them. I was in rehab for a probation violation at the time.



I brought all of this baggage and all of these walls with me to Teen Challenge, but Jesus is restoring my mind, body, and spirit. According to state records, I'm court ordered here, but John 15:16 says, "You did not choose me, but I chose you." I'm here because God wanted me here. I'm here at Teen Challenge of the Midlands to finally get my life together. Thank God that He is not only a God of first chances or second chances, but a God of everlasting chances. Here at Teen Challenge, we go through a group called the Christ-Life Solution. These sessions have helped me release

some bitterness, anger, and hurt in my life. Jesus has restored my relationship with my father and my mother, but more importantly I have a relationship with Jesus Christ! I am so grateful for His mercy. I've learned that the very experiences I have resented or regretted most in life-the ones I wanted to hide and forget-are the very experiences God wants to use to help others. I believe I will be used to help others.

**"Jesus has restored my relationship with my father and my mother."**

Without Teen Challenge, I would be in prison with even more walls of anger and bitterness. Teen Challenge has shown me how to break down these walls through the power and love of Jesus Christ. I was a stone-cold low life, but now I've been set free. I'm a child of God.

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the testimonies of the students, and I'm amazed at the change in their lives and the excitement they have for Christ. Look at the success rate [86% compared to 5% for secular rehabilitation programs]. Secular programs are just not working; they're not changing the heart."

Scotty Hord, who is a retired business owner and sales executive, has also faithfully served on the Teen Challenge board. Raised in abject poverty during the Great Depression, Scotty can see how some of the men in the program might have fallen into the traps of addiction. He said that it is only by the grace of God that he didn't fall into those same traps. Serving on the board has given him a greater appreciation of how good God has been to him. Scotty said that being in sales has helped him to understand the importance of developing relationships with people.

**"...I wanted to do something to help people."**

-Bob Wright



Bob Wright, Jr. of Wright & Wright Law Offices

"When you can establish a relationship, that is when they feel they are appreciat-

ed and loved." He said that he can see this principle played out at Teen Challenge as our staff members develop relationships with the students we minister to. Scotty says, "I have a sense of pride and enjoyment in telling other people about the program and what I've learned."

**"I'm amazed at the change in their lives."**

-Jan Beal

The results are factual, not wishful thinking. I think it is successfully getting the job done: rehabilitating people who might otherwise have still been on the street and giving them new life. It is a worthwhile ministry." When asked why the program works, Scotty responded, "It works because it's Bible based. We believe that God is our source for everything. That includes rehabilitation." He also men-

tioned that he believes that our Construction Training Program is a great opportunity for the students to get back on their feet once they've completed the program.

We hope this brief look into the hearts of our Teen Challenge board members has blessed you. These and all of our board members are definitely a blessing to us!

## Celebration Weekend: A time of rejoicing

Every year, the Teen Challenge staff holds an entire weekend celebration to rejoice with the graduates of our discipleship program.

Our festivities began on Friday night with a wonderful worship service where we heard testimonies from two of our graduates. The evening continued on with our infamous "Not-so-Talent Show." We were awed by the acts performed by our students, staff, and staff families. Yikes!

Saturday was kicked off with our annual staff v. student softball game, and the commencement service was held

Saturday afternoon. Many alumni and guests were able to attend. Worship was led by Rev. Benny Ferguson, the worship minister of Des Moines' First Assembly of God, and we enjoyed special music from Sarah Farrand, a former staff member. We heard an invigorating message from our Executive Director, Warren Hunsberger, and Bob Larson and Roger McKim awarded our graduates with their diplomas. Roger Freeborn, Scott Good, Al Franco, and Brian Near were blessed and sent out as new graduates of Teen Challenge of the Midlands. Van Harden of WHO Radio and Jeanne Lillig of the Women's Christian Temperance Union

were awarded the 2005 Leadership Award. Rudy Moreno was posthumously recognized with an honorary Successful Alumnus Award, and Roger McKim was awarded the Successful Alumnus Award.

The weekend was finished with a barbeque prepared by Dan Cross and Verlan Van Wyk of the Sully Cooperative Exchange.

What a wonderful time of rejoicing and celebration!



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## *Helping People Who Hurt*

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### ***Mark your Calendars!***

#### ***The Teen Challenge Golf Marathon is coming soon.***

For more details check our website or call 800-596-1706 to make a pledge to one of our staff or student golfers. All proceeds go to student living & training expenses.