

July, 2006

Celebration Weekend a Wonderful Occasion

Celebration Weekend was a wonderful time to celebrate the lives of our graduating students! We spent the weekend with Will McFarland, a guitarist and singer who spent his younger days playing with Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne, and the Pointer Sisters! Will's concert on Friday evening was a blast as he shared his testimony and many wonderful songs. Will also sang and played for our graduation ceremony on Saturday.

Our staff v. student softball game started off Saturday morning bright and early, and we finished the morning with a delicious brunch. Saturday's commencement



Will McFarland during the graduation ceremony

service was held at Point of Grace church in Waukee. THANK YOU, Point of Grace for the blessing of your facilities! Our Alumnus Achievement Award went to Chad Ireland this year and our Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Point of Grace Church. Warren



Warren's message was illustrated with this hot custom bike

Hunsberger brought a high horsepower message as he illustrated how the Lord could take our graduates from old "rat bikes" to hot "custom bikes" as they allowed Him to work on their lives. To hear a live broadcast of the service, go to www.pogpod.com. Click on "Available Series" then "Shop Talk" to find the link. We had such a fantastic weekend and are so thankful to almost 500 folks who could attend and celebrate with our graduates!

Time for a Golf Marathon!

Having you been practicing? If not, get out those dusty golf clubs and start swinging because the 9th Annual Teen Challenge of the Midlands Golf Marathon is coming soon! For the second year, Stanbrough Development will be sponsoring this year's event, and the Golf Marathon is getting so big that we had to switch venues. The event will be held on 27 holes at the Willow Creek Golf Course in West Des Moines. Once again, Van and Bonnie of WHO Radio will be broadcasting the marathon live from West Des Moines. If you'd like to golf or if you'd like to find other ways to get involved, please call Merv Roth at 515-674-3713 x256 or you can e-mail him at m.roth@tcmid.org. You can also go to our website at www.tcmid.org to find more information.

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SET FREE! – A Testimony of Hope

I'm twenty years old, and I grew up in Ingleside, Illinois. All of my life I've known who God was but the thought of Him scared me. I wanted to be in control of my own life, and with that attitude I've made a lot of mistakes. I started drinking and smoking pot when I was fourteen years old. From then on my life was one big party. In high school I stayed active in sports, and I made good enough grades to stay eligible.

During the summer of my senior year I got into a bad car accident. My friends and I were all drinking. We were on our way to a party, but we never made it. I ruptured my spleen and got banged up pretty bad. From the looks of my truck and at the speed we were driving, I'm lucky to be alive. When the police showed up at the hospital they tested me for drugs and alcohol, and I tested positive for both. So my parents and my lawyer thought the best thing I could do is go to drug treatment. The drug treatment did nothing for me, because in my mind and attitude, I was just serving time.

When I got out, I finished high school, but I was still drinking and using drugs. I started doing an apprenticeship with an electrical company. It was going good for a while, but it was getting hard to hold myself together. Drugs started taking control of my life. I lost focus of all the goals I had set for myself. So I picked up my last check, and went to work with one of my friends doing cable. That's when my life really started spinning out of control. We spent all of our money down in the city getting high. The money we made from then on was stolen. I felt like I was at the end of the road. I couldn't go to my family because I just about burned every bridge with them. So I just kept running, trying to do things my way. But every which way I turned led me down the same street. I couldn't hold a job because I would lie and steal from them. So I got involved in some pretty bad activity to make money.

My parents knew I was having a hard time, and they were always praying for me. Little did I know they still loved me very much. Somehow they found out that I was selling drugs, so they prayed that God would take me out of the garbage that I was in. That same night I was arrested for aiding a fugitive.

I was already on probation, and as a class four felony, that put me in violation of my probation. The court gave me the option to serve my time in prison or go to Teen Challenge.

While at Teen Challenge of the Midlands, I made the decision to give my life to Christ, and since then, God has done wonders for me. Relationships with my family are being rebuilt, and I now have the confidence in myself to persevere through trials because it says in Joshua 1:9. "I command you, be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." I have to ask the Lord for strength every day.



I still have struggles, and every now and then my flesh rises up, and I feel like doing things my way. I just have to reflect on my past decisions and remember where they got me. I have to die to myself and allow God to live through me. When I went home during a pass from Teen Challenge, I went knowing I

wasn't the same person. I knew it still was going to be hard, so I planned out my week and kept myself busy. I surrounded myself with good people and hung out with my family. I checked out a couple of college groups at my parent's church, and one of the youth pastors asked me to come and give my testimony at the high school youth group. So after doing all this I really felt like God was working in my life, even when I was out of the supervision of staff back at Teen Challenge.

He has shown me grace in every way, shape, and form, and I am so thankful for His love. He released me from an addiction to crack cocaine, and He gave me a second chance at life after overdosing on heroin. God has pulled me out of all my garbage because He has better plans for my life. He's put people in my life now to help me grow and to show me how to depend on God. I know now that there is true freedom found in a relationship with Jesus Christ. I thank God everyday for what He's doing in my life and in the lives of all the men here. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us!

Never Stagnant: Teen Challenge Plans for Future

The Lord has new and fresh things in store for Teen Challenge of the Midlands! Leonardo Da Vinci once said, "Stagnant water loses its purity and in cold weather becomes frozen." We never want the ministry of Teen Challenge to become stagnant. We see that the Lord is expanding our ministry and along with this blessing comes new goals and new dreams.

One area that is a new focus for us is ministry to women with life-controlling problems. For years, through Judy Aubuchon and our Wives Ministry, we have been ministering to the wives of our male students, but we sense the Lord leading us to open a residential program specifically for women. We have recently acquired a house in Pella, Iowa, that was transferred to us through a gift annuity with our Planned Giving Department. As we begin moving in this direction, please pray that the Lord will guide us and give us wisdom to minister to hurting women in the midlands.

Another area of need is to expand our capacity for Re-entry students (students who have completed the



Current Dorm Floor at Colfax Center

Induction and Training phases of our program and are ready to "re-enter" society). Currently we can house eighteen students in our Omaha, Nebraska Re-entry Center, but as our Colfax Induction Center continues to grow, we will need more room for Re-entry students. We'd like to open a center in Des Moines or other metro areas in Iowa or Nebraska. An ideal Re-entry center is located near or on a bus line and in a city with good opportunities for jobs and church involvement.

We're also facing the need to expand our Colfax campus. As this center continues to grow, it won't be long until we are maxed out. As our student body expands, we will need more dining and classroom space. Also, as the number of students grows, the need for more staff and more office space will grow as well.

Just like you know water is pure if it is flowing, you know a ministry like Teen Challenge is healthy when it is on the move and growing, and thank the Lord, we are growing. As we grow, we need your prayers to grow in the right directions and in the right timing.



New Pella House for Women's Center

Leaving a Legacy...

Who would have ever thought that there was a way to fund your retirement and support ministry with the same exact vehicle? You can do exactly that with a deferred gift annuity; and the younger you are when you set it up, the better. Unlike a regular gift annuity where you are guaranteed a lifetime income stream that begins now, with a deferred gift annuity you are agreeing to forego that income stream until a certain date in the future, such as when you turn 65.

Here is an example of how this could work. A couple in their 30's agrees to fund a deferred gift annu-

ity with some money they inherited from their parents. At the age of 32, they contribute \$50,000 towards this plan, recognizing that it will help support them in retirement and bless ministry later on. At the age of 65, that deferred gift annuity will begin paying out an income stream to them of \$13,100/year guaranteed for the rest of their lives! In addition, they will get a huge income tax deduction in the year that they set this up and ministry will be blessed later. Please feel free to call us at the center or you can reach Alan Briscoe directly on his cell phone at (417) 693-1445.



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Helping People Who Hurt

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Warren Hunsberger with one of this year's graduates