

# Teen Challenge Update

November 2006

## New Chapters Penned: Pella, Meet Latvia

From past articles, you know the story of the new Pella Women's Center, but what you don't know is the "meanwhile" of this book God is writing. While this "midlands" story was taking place, God was busy writing a story that would link us to the world around us...

Last spring, Warren Hunsberger, our Executive Director, received a call from a representative of Global Teen Challenge about partnering with First Assembly of God in Des Moines. The church designated their 2006 "Fall Project" to raise money for TC overseas and our local Teen Challenge centers. The plan was formulated for Latvia's Teen Challenge program of Northeastern Europe and the Pella Women's Center to split the raised funds evenly!

In addition, Warren was invited to go along on the Advance Team trip to Latvia to make sure that everything was in place with Latvia Teen Challenge personnel. God moved while the team was there and Warren knew that the Lord was uniting the two Teen Challenge programs. He knew that this project to raise funds wasn't two projects, but one project, bringing hope in Jesus Christ to hurting people!

The Latvian Teen Challenge program is desperately in need of new facilities. It currently ministers from an old barn! In the warmer seasons 3-4 men are able to enroll in their TC, but this winter, only one man stayed due to the frigid conditions. First Assembly along with Teen Challenge of the Midlands plans to travel to Latvia in May to help build this new center, and as of right now, First Assembly has raised over



*Current Teen Challenge center in Latvia*



*Modris, Latvian TC Director, with Warren*

\$90,000 for Teen Challenge here and Latvia!

In addition, Modris Ozolinkevics, the director of the Latvian Teen Challenge was able to fly to America last month and stay at our Colfax Training Center. The purpose of his one-week stay was for Teen Challenge staff to pour into him all that we could shove into a week. In addition, he was able to visit our centers in Pella, Des Moines, and Omaha.

We thank God for this amazing adventure He is unfolding before us and can't wait for more chapters to be written!

### CONTACT INFORMATION

You can reach our Intake Coordinator by email at: [info@tcmid.org](mailto:info@tcmid.org)

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

I was born on July 13th, 1958 in Marengo, Iowa and raised in West Des Moines. My parents thought I should wait another year before I started school, and from that point on, I convinced myself that I wasn't smart or good enough to do almost anything. Growing up I was very timid and shy and the only time I felt comfortable was when I was by myself. One of my parents was very sarcastic and I learned to be the same, in fact I became very good at it. My sarcasm pushed people away resulting in my having no friends.

People always brought to my attention my weaknesses, never mentioning my strengths. I just wanted people to say that they loved me and show it to me by their actions. Then at the age of eighteen, I found the love of my life, alcohol. She never left me; she always was on my side and understood me. I thought alcohol would allow me to open up, but I experienced the opposite and became an introvert. When I was in a room full of people, drinking was all that mattered. The end result: Total Isolation.

The first fifteen years of drinking I lost too many jobs to even count, but yet continued in denial that alcohol was a problem. I thought I was a victim and that people were out to get me. Then at the age of thirty-three I found out what it was like to be homeless. This was also the first time I heard about Jesus Christ. Unfortunately my heart was so hard I refused to listen and for most of the next fourteen years I lived in missions, under bridges, and in the woods. I lived like an animal. My life reached the point I didn't want to live with alcohol and couldn't live without it.

Then one day my life changed. I had gotten drunk and passed out in my truck in a driveway in Des Moines. I woke up to the owner of the house coming out to confront me in her driveway. My first thought was, "Oh no, here



come the police again." But instead, she talked to me and I told her about my troubles and my past struggles. Instead of calling the police she told me about an organization called Teen Challenge. I said, "Teen Challenge? Lady, I am 47 years old." I then discovered that I was talking to an angel. After she told me about Teen Challenge, she told me she would pay the money if I would go. I

accepted her offer and went to Teen Challenge.

In the last several months at Teen Challenge, God has restored my sanity. He also has given me a relationship with my dad that I never had. Through God, my self-esteem and confidence are now to the point that I love myself and others. Granted there are times I still will fight God and take back my will. This is a daily struggle for me, but I know now, by the grace of God, I'm not living in sin anymore.

Teen Challenge and their Theophostic Prayer ministry have given me the tools to get to the roots of my thinking and memory patterns. God has done miracles in this area.

Bottom line, Teen Challenge has given me the opportunity to live in the solution, (Jesus Christ), rather than in the problem.