

Teen Challenge Update

Teen Challenge of Nebraska

December 2008

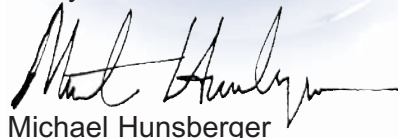
From the Director...

Dear Friends,

I want to share a little about what the Lord is doing in the lives of our students and staff! I am overwhelmed and deeply honored to be part of this great ministry. My wife and I were able to see the great magnitude of what the Lord is doing in Teen Challenge across the globe as we celebrated TC's 50th Anniversary this summer in New York City. How awesome it was to be reminded that the Lord is moving in the same powerful way through centers just like ours in 80 different countries. We came away refreshed and excited about what the Lord has in store for us over the next 50 years!

Here at Teen Challenge, we want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Below are some quotes to remind us during this season that God is STILL performing miracles everyday as He has always done.

Merry Christmas,



Michael Hunsberger
Executive Director
Teen Challenge of the Midlands, Nebraska

"I'm learning how to live life with God as my center instead of God just being a part of my life"

-Jay

"This year, I have the most to be thankful for! He has changed my life and is restoring my relationship with my family."

-Justin

"The Lord has transformed my life and for the first time, I feel clean!"

-Brent

"This year, T.C. has allowed me to come into the light so I can follow God's path and wishes."

-Bob

"A year ago, I would have been drunk. Now I'm thinking of scripture verses I can send to my wife."

-Jeff

CONTACT INFORMATION

You can reach our Admissions Director by email at: i.hunsberger@tcmid.org

Visit our website at: www.tcmid.org

You can reach our other Midlands centers at:

Teen Challenge Admission and Crisis Center
1709 10th St.
Des Moines, IA 50314
515.282.5249

Colfax Training Center
900 N. League Rd.
PO Box 185
Colfax, IA 50054
ph. 515.674.3713
fax. 515.674.4463

Pella Women's Home
714 Independence St.
Pella, IA
50219-1828
641.628.2808

Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

When I was about five years old, my parents were divorced. My sister and I stayed with my mother, who was an alcoholic and addict. My father is a very balanced person and he was the only hint of normality in my life. When I was living with my mother, the household we lived in was full of chaos. We lived in a four bedroom, two-story house that was always packed with drug addicts and alcoholics. I often felt like a stranger in my own house. I was exposed to large amounts of drugs and lewd behavior at a young age.

Very often, the electricity, water and telephone would be shut off. Not from lack of funds, but because no one would ever remember to pay the bills. My mom and her friends would usually stay up partying all night with loud music. While most of the kids at school were going to bed at 8pm. I was usually awake until 4 or 5 am. Obviously, this affected my schooling and I began getting into a lot of trouble.

We would be late to school almost everyday because we would have to drag my mom or one of her friends out of bed to take us to school. Many days, we wouldn't even go to school and some days, wouldn't get picked up until after dark. Every other weekend, we would go to my dad's house and not understand how to correctly behave because we had been taught "normal" behavior included large amounts of drugs and chaos.

At one point, there were 15 people sleeping in our 4 bedroom house and during the day, sometimes there were more than that! Now, we had a bunch of thugged out teenagers living in a house with thugged out adults. It was normal for the police to show up for many different reasons: domestic disturbance, missing people reports, etc. I learned early that the police and all authorities are the enemy.

Around the age 10 or 11, I was introduced to drugs and sex. I saw everyone else in my home doing it so I thought it was OK. I believe the first time I used

drugs, I was instantly addicted. I began using drugs every day and got involved in all sorts of illegal activity.

My father was finally able to gain custody of my sister and me after a few years and we could only see my mother on "supervised" visits. He tried to guide me in the right paths, but I was already on such a rough road of rebellion I would not listen to anyone. I was kicked out of multiple high schools and finally moved to another city in Florida and got my GED. I intended on going to college but got kicked out really before I got started. I soon got wrapped up in the legal system and started to run from my problems. I had been high on drugs every day since youth except when locked up in jail. Addictions and all sorts of sin bound my life up tight. I didn't know what to do or where to turn.

I found myself at a point in life where I didn't care if I lived or died. I had tried inpatient and outpatient rehab clinics but I would get in trouble, go to jail, get out and be worse than before. Eventually, I learned of Teen Challenge, which I knew was a long-term program. I didn't know what it was all about, but I saw the high success rate, and I knew if it could help others, it might be able to help me.

I had never known Jesus before. I found the Lord when I came to Teen Challenge in Colfax. I am now a child of God. My life is totally different and new. I feel like a new man, instead of a lost boy. Praise God! The Lord has restored my life and my relationships. I am freed from drugs and a life consumed by sin. I still mess up, but I get back up and He puts me back on track. Through Teen Challenge, I have found true salvation in Jesus Christ, and I have new life and another chance from my Creator. It amazes me how quickly God can turn a situation around and take a soldier of the devil and turn him into a warrior of Christ.

