

Teen Challenge Update

Teen Challenge of Nebraska

February 2008

TC Growing Like a WEED

Teen Challenge of Nebraska is growing and is in much need of expansion! Praise the Lord for this growth spurt, but we know that along with added numbers of students and staff members comes a need for MORE ROOM!

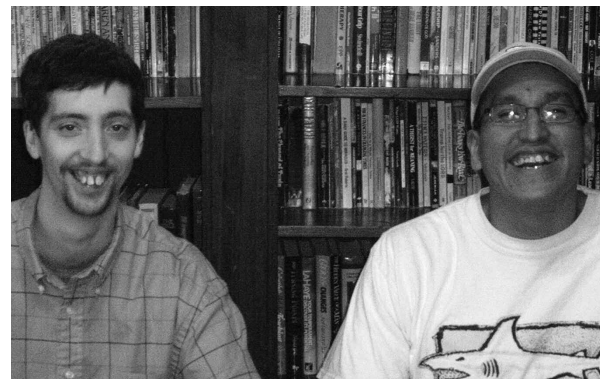
Our three main needs for the student housing is expanded laundry, bathroom, and kitchen facilities. We are currently installing new laundry machines, but need to increase our plumbing and electrical capacity to keep up with the new demands. The student restrooms need remodeled, and an additional locker-room with showers needs to be installed in the basement. Our kitchen needs new cabinets and countertops along with commercial grade appliances and equipment.

In response to expanded students numbers, we have some new staff members! We thank the Lord for bringing us the right men of God to fill these positions. Currently, our staff housing consists of two apartments inside our student house (one small and the other large enough for a family), and our director's home next door. These spaces are in desperate need of renovated kitchens with new cabinets, countertops, and updated appliances. In addition, the director's home needs new plumbing and electrical work.

Please pray for God's provision as we know these projects are much needed. Growth is a great sign and we are excited to see where God will bring us from here. If you or someone you know are able to contribute to these needs, please contact Jay Wicht at 402-551-2322 or e-mail him at j.wicht@tcmid.org.



Cooking up a little something in the current student kitchen



Two new staff members: Jay and Jay

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

Most importantly, I want to glorify and honor the name of Jesus Christ, the One who washed my soiled robes and made them white, despite my protests of shame. He is the only reason I'm alive today.

I was born and raised in rural Nebraska. What I remember most about my early years is anger, bitterness, and endless mourning, a wailing deep in my heart that didn't ever stop. My father lost his arms in the Vietnam War, and this affected my immediate and extended family in so many different ways. In my immediate family, the 'unspoken rule' was to never, ever let on to anyone that our lives were falling apart. We all just denied that we were bleeding from mortal wounds. Eventually, I grew tired of this façade and decided I wouldn't live in the unending agony, which was just like every other member of my family, and began drinking regularly. Marijuana came soon after.

One thing led to another, and eventually, I was injecting methamphetamines by IV needles and living in a cockroach ridden apartment. I was barely living and spending every dollar on my next injection. I ceased showering and eating regularly, and I worked only to make the money to feed my habit. Family and friends were no longer important. My time was dedicated to my love: myself.

Finally, I landed in Salt Lake City during the 2002 Winter Olympics. I was hoping to score an easy job. No one knew me in Salt Lake City, and I allowed myself to do and be everything I would never dare while in Nebraska. For four years, I built my kingdom of shame, and wallowed in its courtyard day and night.

One Sunday, in a God ordained moment of clarity, I discovered that the same agony I had sought to escape so many years ago was living in my heart. This was too much! Death was my only option, but I found that my suicide note was

over three pages long! This wouldn't do... but something had to change.

Desperately, that same Sunday, I searched for a pastor in Salt Lake City. The Holy Spirit lived in that church! I sat in the back and got real with Jesus. I told Him that if He could use this worthless life, I was giving it to Him. He could have it. He grabbed my life, and we haven't looked back.



Jay Wicht, our newest staff member

The first thing He decided for me was to bring me to Teen Challenge to receive godly counseling and healing from my dark past. My Lord allowed me to finally engage and face the haunting memories which caused me to run. It wasn't easy. More than once I wanted to cut and run, to get away into the numbness of cocaine or alcohol. But, I wanted freedom more than I wanted comfort in my life. I was tired of being a slave to the addiction, and I wanted to be free. Jesus revealed himself intimately and established His throne in my heart during my time as a student of Teen Challenge. I completed the program in October of 2007 and joined the staff at the re-entry center in Omaha, where I now work.

My deepest desires revolve around being the man of God that Jesus can use. I want to allow Him to use me in altering other's perceptions that the life of oppression can never change. Before, I thought I would die a drug addict, and I had accepted my fate. My world now is bursting with life, and I'm in awe that Jesus would use a poor fool like me to speak words of encouragement to His people. Unreal.