

# Teen Challenge Update

## *Kitchen Renovation Complete!*

After years of planning and help from many different people and organizations, our Training Center kitchen is complete! What started as a seemingly impossible renovation now includes a sparkling new cooking and dishwashing area (complete with brand-new equipment), a walk-in cooler and freezer, and a new pantry. To keep you up-to-date on the renovation, here's a brief synopsis up to this point:

- The new walk-in cooler (donated by Taylor Industries) and freezer were installed.
- The old pantry was completely gutted and redone. 4,000 lineal feet of shelving was installed (courtesy of Keith Denner).
- A new concrete loading/unloading area was added with double doors into the pantry area for convenient delivery.

The last step to be completed was the biggest part, and had to be done quickly because while work was going on, we were without a cooking area. This part included finishing off the office, dishwashing, and cooking areas with all new ceramic tile walls, brand-new quarry tile flooring, as well as new air conditioning throughout the entire space.

The tile walls and flooring were purchased through Flooring Gallery, who helped immensely on this entire project. Staff and students laid the white tile, and it definitely makes it brighter down there! The new air conditioning system was installed by AC Contractors. New exhaust and ventilation hoods

were installed above the stoves as well. A suspended ceiling was put in with new lighting and a fire suppression system was installed in the cooking area. All electrical work was done by Tesdell Electric. Two steel curtains were installed on the corridor wall as it is our goal to move away from "chow-hall serving." We now have the ability to serve "family-style" at the tables, as well as provide a better area to put dirty dishes after meals.

### THE NEW KITCHEN



Last, but definitely not least, the new equipment was brought in. This includes a maple-top baking center, commercial quality mixer, blender, slicer, tilting skillet, steam kettle, deep-fat fryer, two side-by-side conventional ovens, four gas burners and griddle, convection oven, and steam combi oven. All of the new equipment was purchased through Taylor Industries, who helped tremendously with donated labor and discounted equipment.

What a blessing it has been to see God provide during this project. Everyone has been enjoying the new kitchen. The first group to use the new equipment was a singles group from First Federated Church in Des Moines. They came and prepared a Thanksgiving feast for us over the holiday. It has been rumored that even Warren has been doing dishes lately! We want to thank you for helping through both your prayers and finances. Merry Christmas and may God bless you during this holiday season!



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### NEW INFORMATION

You can reach our Executive Director by email at:  
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Visit our website at:  
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# Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

My name is Duane and I am 38 years old. Abandoned by my father as an infant, from the ages of 12-15, I underwent severe sexual and physical abuse from my brother. I grew up seeing my mother abused and over the years, anger built up inside of me. I left home at 16, searching for some sort of meaning.

In 1983, I joined the U.S. Navy as way of escape. I then moved to Los Angeles, California where I lived with addictions to methamphetamines, crack and acid. I got involved in pornography production and drug trade throughout the sex clubs industry. Later, I would find out that, because of my lifestyle, I was HIV positive. Even then, I still lived in total denial and attempted to find acceptance throughout society. I was spiritually dead. I felt very dirty, and I absolutely believed Christ could not forgive me.

Not finding significance from man, I tried to find it through success. I went to law school and worked in a firm for 4 years. I excelled in my practice, and thereafter, saw my entire life become a courtroom. At this point, I had a \$450/day cocaine habit and was bringing illegal arms in from Mexico. I also became involved in a fictitious law firm until I was busted in 1993 for cocaine in a courthouse.

From 1996 to 2000 I lived in Joplin, Missouri. Once again, I became involved in methamphetamine manufacturing, distribution, and abuse. At the lowest point, my doctors gave me 6

months to live in the lifestyle I was leading; they washed their hands of any more treatment. I was malnourished, weighing only 95 pounds. In the fall of 2001, I attempted suicide, but God got my attention instead. I heard the Holy Spirit tell me to go to Teen Challenge. After pulling the needle out of my arm and gun from my head, I went.



I totally sold-out and dedicated my life to Christ on November 3, 2001 and God has touched me. Only because of His mercy and grace am I here today. He cleaned me up and demanded my mind, body and soul for Him. During the last 13 months in Teen Challenge, I have seen God restore my health, clear my mind and set me free from addictions to heroin, crack and meth. I am totally devoted to dying daily to my needs and now have a sincere desire to passionately pursue God. He has placed a call on my life and has given me an opportunity to live in significance with Him. He has taken the bitterness and unforgiveness of my past and His Spirit has broken me so I could forgive my brother and father. Now, I have fully accepted God as my true Father and love pursuing and seeking total control by Him.

From all of us at  
Teen Challenge...  
Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year

