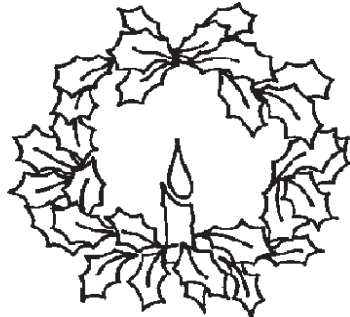


# Teen Challenge Update

Colfax Training Center

December, 2010

## Merry Christmas!



On behalf of our entire Teen Challenge family, Merry Christmas, and best wishes for a happy and blessed New Year!

“Thank you for blessing us with the ability to minister to hurting people.”

**Theodore Krabill**

“Merry Christmas! Your giving gives hurting men the opportunity to encounter the love of God.”

**Brandon Avalos**

“Thanks for helping us keep our doors open, and helping us introduce folks to Jesus Christ.”

**Ken Morrison**



Staff member Roger Freeborn, and Nate (Colfax Student)



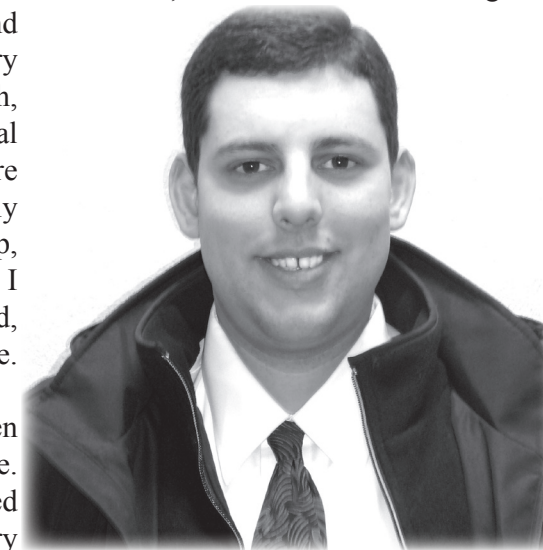
Some of our Teen Challenge students and staff gathered by our Christmas tree.

“Teen Challenge has been extremely blessed by those who have given so much of themselves through prayers, finances, time and their gifts and talents. If they just realized how important their ministry is to Teen Challenge, and how grateful we are as they give of themselves so that we can continue God’s plan for T.C.!”

**Dixie Low**

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

I was raised in a good family in Dayton, Ohio. We moved to Houston, Texas when I was five, and lived there until after high school. In kindergarten, my teacher told my parents that I might have Tourette’s syndrome. My parents took me to a neurologist, and I was diagnosed with Tourette’s, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and ADHD. Throughout elementary and junior high, I went to church, and to a Christian educational program. The summer before my senior year I became really involved with my youth group, and went to several retreats. I thought I was close with God, and that nothing could touch me.



David, Colfax Student

However, that all changed when I went to Blinn Junior College. I met some people who played poker. At first I only played every once in a while, and still went to church. Slowly, I stopped going to school, and I played poker every night. I dropped out of school, and lived off my college loans until my parents got tired of giving me money. Since I didn’t have a job, I moved in with my parents who had moved to Omaha, Nebraska. I became involved with my church again, and started working at a daycare. The people I met there became good friends, but I slowly started to gamble again.

When I turned twenty-one, I started going to casinos. I began to steal, and go to underground games. I quickly became lost in debt to many people, and I lived in fear. If I was driving, and someone was behind me for more than five minutes, I would turn, and go a different route. Eventually, it caught up to me, and I was beat up by four people. When my parents found out how deep I was involved in gambling, and how much money I owed (over \$30,000), they began looking into rehab centers for me.

By the grace of God, a friend of ours told us that she knew a person who went to Teen Challenge, and had good things to say about it. I called Scott Reddish at the Intake Center, and started a two week pro-

cess that allowed me to come here on June 23, 2010. Since that day God has moved so much in my life. When I first came to Colfax, I didn’t know what to think. I was here because I wanted to change, but I also felt safe here. Part of me was still really scared. I started reading the Bible, and one of the first verses that spoke to me was Matthew 11:28, “Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” I began to pray for help. The restoration of my mind that happens when God speaks truth into the lies that I believe has given me more peace than I have ever had.

When I arrived at Teen Challenge, my Tourette’s was horrible. I had outbursts every five to ten minutes. People prayed for me, but still no change. On October 14, 2010 I was angry

and praying. I asked God why I was still making noise. I had prayed and talked to Pastor Larry about some of my memories, but still no change. God told me that had healed me, and I was acting out my Tourette’s out of habit. I started to become aware of the feelings and urges I would get before I did it. I would fight those urges by telling myself what God had said to me. I would only do my tick maybe a handful of times a day, but again, I started to think I wasn’t really healed. Then I read Chapter 7 of “The Cross and the Switchblade.” It said, “Don’t you realize that you got exactly what you wanted. You asked the Holy Spirit for a miracle, and now that you’ve got one you’re trying to argue it away. People who don’t believe in miracles shouldn’t pray for them.” Right after that I went to Pastor Larry’s and asked to get off of my medication. I am now in the process of weaning off of my medicine, and because of that leap of faith, I have had some of the best days of my life. Because of God, I am cured from my Tourette’s, and my desire to gamble has faded. I know that God has big plans for me. I just have to continue praying and pressing in to Him so I can see what they are.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

You can reach our Admissions Director by email at: [s.reddish@tcmid.org](mailto:s.reddish@tcmid.org)  
Visit our website at: [www.tcmid.org](http://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

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

Teen Challenge of Nebraska  
2916 N. 58th St.  
Omaha, NE 68104  
402.551.2322