

The Righteous Cry Out

Gorgeous fall color and mild temperatures greeted those who attended our Fall Wives' Weekend. Seven couples enjoyed a full weekend of helpful teaching, inspiration, fun and great fellowship. The wives especially were excited to be together again with those who can relate to their situations. Most of this group have been together for the past 2 or 3 Wives' Weekends, and feel they are developing long term friendships.

Our speakers for the weekend were our own Colfax staff members, Pastor Larry and Dixie Low. Married almost 47 years, Larry and Dixie have ministered to hurting people for the past 27 years. They again proved to be a blessing to us!

In Friday evening's introductory session, Pastor Larry stated that Psalm 34:17-18 would be the foundation of what they taught over the weekend. It says: "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit." Larry and Dixie emphasized our need to cry out to God as they wove parts of their personal testimonies into their teaching.

In the first teaching session on Saturday morning, Pastor Larry began by expounding on Psalm 34:17-18. He said "the righteous" refers to those who interact with God. They are "those who listen and obey and follow God through life." He described these verses as an awesome promise that God hears us, and is for us! As we swallow our pride and cry out to Him for help,

He pulls us through our struggles.

Dixie said these verses had become truth in their lives. She reiterated that God is with us through every trial as we cry out to Him and trust Him, and she emphasized that life is an adventure that God wants us to enjoy. We can do that as we draw on Him and His word. She said God demands change, and sometimes we fight that. After Christ intervened in Larry's life, and he made a 180 degree change, Dixie had to make the choice to serve Christ also. Another milestone for her came after Larry went into the ministry. She was already a pastor's wife when God spoke to her about forgiving her mother. When she broke before God, and cried out to Him, He delivered her of all the hurt she had carried. From

that point on, she had compassion for others. Dixie emphasized that God wants us to keep our hearts pure and clean. She encouraged the wives to be open to God, and His purpose for them because He wants to use each of us to minister to the hurts of other people.

In the second session, the Lows taught on the subject of trials, stating that we do not grow without going through trials. They quoted James 1:2-4; "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

In session three, the husbands and wives were encouraged to meet each others emotional needs. Larry taught that love is more than a feeling, it is serving one another. He said people do



Fall Wives Weekend

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not fall out of love, they choose not to serve their spouse any longer. He described our emotional needs as a sense of peace we have or do not have. The wife is more apt to meet her husband's need of respect as a man, if he has served her by listening. This makes her feel secure. She needs that security before she can meet his needs.

Along with all the beneficial teaching, the couples also enjoyed some free time, good food, and great fellowship. Late Saturday afternoon we traveled to Pella, Iowa, and enjoyed eating at Pizza Ranch, and visiting the Pella Women's Teen Challenge Center where Candace DuRegger gave us a short tour. After returning to Colfax, the couples had free time to spend together, or enjoy visiting or playing games with other couples.

On Sunday morning we had our own worship service in the chapel with Jake and Lacey Stielow leading us in a beautiful time of worship. Pastor Ed served communion, and sang "A Healing Jesus" before Pastor Larry's message from Hebrews 4:10-16. Larry emphasized that our true source of rest and peace comes from God, and our relationship with Him.

In our last session, Dixie shared how devastating it was for her when one of their grandbabies died, but how she cried out to God, and He heard and comforted her. Larry spoke on the difference between a contract and covenant, and reminded us that when we repeated our marriage vows, we entered into a holy covenant with our spouse and with God. In a Christian marriage, we are promising before God to love, honor, and serve our mate. The session ended with a beautiful time of the men praying for, and expressing appreciation to their wives for standing with them during their TC journey.

The Women's group from Heartland Assembly in Ankeny, Iowa, provided gift bags for the wives, as well as grocery items. Other friends of Teen Challenge gave offerings to cover the cost of the weekend, and make it possible for us to help the wives with travel expenses. We greatly appreciate all who contribute to TC Wives Ministry.

The dates for our Winter Wives' Weekend are January 27-29. Our speakers will be Ray and Joyce Henderson. Please RSVP by January 12th if you plan to attend. You may call me at (515) 988-2204, or email me at judyaubuchon@msn.com.



Pastor Ed and Judy Aubuchon



Some of the couples enjoying Saturday Brunch at Teen Challenge Fall Wives' Weekend

The Power of One

I recently heard a missionary couple share about Project Rescue, a ministry reaching out to girls who are victims of sex trafficking. During their presentation, they showed a short video which mentioned that this ministry was born out of a Teen Challenge center in India. It hit me then, as this video was showing how Project Rescue has now grown to multiple homes in India, that this is all part of the harvest of one man's simple obedience.

One small-town country preacher obeyed and made the commitment to turn off the TV and pray. He obeyed when God led him out of his comfort zone and beyond his own ability to reach out to four gang members in New York that he'd read about in a magazine.

How many millions of lives have been touched by God through the Teen Challenge ministry that was birthed out of that obedience? How many more broken and hurting people is God touching through ministries like Project Rescue that were born out of Teen Challenge? How many lives has God touched, restored, changed and healed because of *one man's* obedience?!

Could God Really Use Me?

"Who am I?" you might be asking. "What could God *possibly* accomplish through me? I have no talents, no connections...I am no one in this world." I had those same questions. When I think of the great pillars of faith that God used in the bible to impact generations, I see very little resemblance to my own life.

But here's the truth: God wants to use you that way. His desire is to see the lost found and to set the captives free – that not *one* life would be lost. He wants his children to be obedient to Him so that He can reach hundreds, thousands, even *millions* through each of them!

Look at the examples God gave us in Scripture. Look at the examples He gives us in our own lifetime, like David Wilkerson, who I wrote about earlier. *Everybody* who was *somebody* to God was *nobody* to the world. He uses the humble. He uses the faithful. He uses the obedient.

I can tell you right now that if God is calling you to act in obedience, or if He has put a call-

ing on your life in an area of ministry, you probably don't have the qualifications and ability to fulfill it. But it's not by *your* power that He plans to accomplish it. It's not in you, but in *Him* in you. **He** has the power. **He** has the knowledge, the wisdom and the "connections." It is not by your power that you will accomplish anything He calls you to...it is by *His*.

Just obey. Listen to His voice. Those simple little things you obey Him in will have a ripple effect. One person affects a few, who in turn affect a few, who in turn affect a few...and it goes on and on and on. You have no idea what kind of chain reaction God can set off through your obedience, even in the little things! God has given you great potential, and He has great plans for you. Don't let your lack of conviction stand in the way.

But I'm Afraid...

When God places a calling on us, or shares His expectations with us, it is easy to get intimidated. When the task seems so big, questions of "What if..." can easily cause doubt in our minds. I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to follow through on what God was calling me to do. I was afraid that my failure to follow through would cause me to feel guilty, and that I would let that feeling of guilt separate me from God.

Do you know what God told me when I said that to Him? "*Kill that fear!*" Fear is a devil – not some pansy little emotion. Do *not* let fear into your life. Fear is a faith-killer. Where one is, the other cannot be. Kill your fear with faith.

You know who the Lord is and what He is capable of. You have seen Him work in your life and in others'. You *know* Him. Now *believe* in Him.

Believe that He *can* and *will* do what He says. Believe in Him to follow through, and to give you the tools to do whatever it is that He has called you to. Believe in Him to give you the strength and discipline to do what He's asked you to do. And believe that He's already done it. Because He has. He wants to make a difference through you. Believe it.

Written by Amanda Allen, wife of Ryan Allen, who completed Teen Challenge, October 18, 2010.



900 N. League Rd.
P.O. Box 185
Colfax, IA 50054

Phone: 515.988-2204
Fax: 515.674-4463
Email: j.aubuchon@tcmid.org
Website: www.tcmid.org

Mark Your Calendars!

These are special events at Teen Challenge, and the wives of students are invited. Please call ahead for information and reservations. (515) 674-3713 or (515) 988-2204



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24th

Winter Wives' Weekend
January 27th – 29th

Spring Wives' Weekend
April 27th – 29th



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!