

Teen Challenge Update

Colfax Training Center

February, 2011

Mission to Latvia



(L)Isaac Hunsberger & (R)TC Staff Member, Brandon Avalos on a recent trip to Latvia.



The new Teen Challenge Latvia building.

- “Dangerous Drinking Habits Taking Heavy Health Toll in Baltics”
- “Latvian Pedestrian with Twice Lethal Alcohol Level Killed by Car”
- “More Registered Abortions Per Year Than Births”
- “The Most Serious Medical Problem is Chronic Alcoholism”

These are some of the recent headlines coming from the small Eastern European country of Latvia. As the rate of alcoholism, drug use and suicides increase, many wonder, what can be done to stop it? Teen Challenge of the Midlands began a partnership with Teen Challenge Latvia five years ago to bring hope to the hurting, and to share the love of Jesus Christ with a broken nation. Since that time, Teen Challenge of the Midlands has traveled five times to construct a new building, and bring supplies to make Teen Challenge Latvia a reality.

In September of last year, Teen Challenge of the Midlands staff members, Isaac and Beth Hunsberger moved with their three daughters to become Missionary Associates to Latvia. They have focused on youth ministry, church planting, and helping the Latvian Teen Challenge. In April, 2011, a team of four Teen Challenge of the Midlands staff members will travel to Latvia for a ten day mission’s trip. Our goal is to share the love of Christ, and the ministry of Teen Challenge in as many ways possible.

Please come alongside our team in prayer by lifting up the people of Latvia, and ask God to prepare the hearts of each person we will come in contact with. If you would like to make a contribution to our efforts with Teen Challenge Latvia, you can send your donation to our Colfax center, and mark it “Latvia.” Thank you in advance for remembering the country of Latvia in your prayers. We look forward to a fruitful and blessed trip!

Set Free: A Testimony of God’s Saving Grace

I was born in 1991 in Springfield, Missouri. As a young kid I lived close to my dad’s family in Pierre Part, Louisiana. I didn’t grow up in church, so I didn’t know who God was. As an early teenager, my family moved to Nixa, Missouri. We lived with my grandparents until we saved enough money to get an apartment. As I grew up in the city, things were going quite well. I was great at football and baseball. However, in eighth grade, I started smoking pot heavy every day. It was the cool thing to do, or so I thought. My drug use became worse, and getting high became my escape from life.



Not knowing what I was getting myself into, I came to Teen Challenge of the Midlands in June of 2010. I have to say, by far, it is the best decision I have ever made. I have made friends I can trust, and I am healthy again. Most of all, I have been born again in Christ. God has made me new, and the past does not matter to Him. I have my family back, and I am still not worthy of God’s praises. Through this program, I have learned how to cast all my emotions, and take them



Austin, Colfax Student

I got my first DUI when I was fifteen, but I got off because it was my first offense. Drugs were killing me and my family. My little brother found about twelve packs of used needles in my room, and that is when my family knew I was in trouble. Regular rehab did not work out at all. I ended up just leaving the same way I was when I went in. It seems that all the rehab centers were about was glorifying the past. They had no real answers to help anyone.

to God. I learned how to let the selfish Austin go. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, I now know how to love. In Teen Challenge, I have learned that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus, and that when we pick up the cross, the old has gone, and the new has come. God has given me perfect peace, which is something that I never had before!

Eventually, meth became my main way out of things. I would go for weeks without food or sleep. I could tell my family was worried about me, but it didn’t stop me. I stole from the ones I loved most, and I had become nothing but skin and bones. After being in and out of jail, I wanted help, but I didn’t know where to turn. After getting in trouble with the law I found myself facing prison time. Due to the grace of God, the judge made an agreement that I complete a year of Teen Challenge, or serve six years in prison.

In Christ, I die to live, not to go to heaven. The most exciting thing to me is that there is always something new to learn about God. His love for us is indescribable. The verse Isaiah 40:31 says, “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles.” That is the most exciting thing to me because I am remaining patient, and God keeps blessing me. The promises that He has for each and every one of us are amazing! Listen to the Spirit because the flesh will always be at war with the one who lives inside of us. Let God work in you, and He will open up doors.

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

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



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