



Oasis

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Testimony of Hope

My name is Aron Baier. My husband Jason and I have two sons, Jacy and Gabriel, and a baby girl due in February. Jason just completed the Teen Challenge Program on Dec. 20th. It is so good to have him home and living for God. The rewards of his diligence are wonderful, but the road was not easy. For 16 months I have had to find God on my own, without the spiritual help of my husband.

I had always depended on Jason for everything. That's why it was so devastating when everything fell apart. I trusted him to take care of me & relied on his promise that everything was going to be okay. Everything was not okay, everything was terrible. The days before he entered the program were so empty and sad. I was over-

whelmed with hopelessness. It was all the more frustrating to lose my husband to a 16-month program that we knew he needed. Now was I not only hopeless and empty, but I was also alone.

God met me where I was and little did I know that he was bringing me into my own 16-month program of learning to trust only in Him. I had put my trust in my husband and he failed me. If I planned to continue to trust only in him, he would fail me again. It is only God who is faithful and trustworthy. I know that now.

Losing my husband to alcohol and drugs was horrible. Watching what became of him was unbearable. I didn't even know him anymore. Yet it was ever harder to lose

him to Teen Challenge. I didn't understand why God just couldn't fix everything instantly. The days were long and the nights were longer. I saw how Jason was changing so fast in the program & I didn't understand why he couldn't come home early. I understand now that God is a God of completion and that what He starts in us, we must also let Him finish.

I am thankful for what God has and is doing through Teen Challenge. The benefits truly outweigh the pain and hardship. There is light at the end of the tunnel!

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Jason and Aron Baier





To let go does not mean to stop caring, it means I can't do it for someone else.

To let go is not to cut myself off, it's the realization that I don't control another.

To let go is not to enable, but to allow learning from natural consequences.

To let go is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.

To let go is not to try to change or blame another, I can only change myself.

To let go is not to care for, but to care about.

To let go is not to fix, but to be supportive.

To let go is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being.

To let go is not to be in the middle arranging all the outcomes, but to allow others to affect their own outcomes.

To let go is not to be protective, it is to permit another to face reality.

To let go is not to deny but to accept.

To let go is not to nag, scold or argue, but to search out my own shortcomings and correct them.

To let go is not to adjust everything to my desires but to take each day as it comes and to cherish the moment.

To let go is not to criticize and regulate anyone but to try to become what I dream I can be.

To let go is not to regret the past but to grow and live for the future.

Let go is to fear less and love more.

—Author Unknown

Wives' Weekend

This past Wives' Weekend was a special time of receiving ministry and building relationships with one another. Everyone was blessed by the teaching of Dave Olson and Norm and Kathy Wenig. The small group times were a highlight for most in attendance as we were able to minister to one another as we all walk through this time of growth in Christ. It was also fun to be blessed with all of the "goodies" like the gift bags and the trip to the Tulip Tea Room.



We are really looking forward to the next Wives' Weekend which will be held March 14th-16th. Once again we have some special things planned for you all. Please let us know if you are coming by Feb. 21st. To RSVP please call Teen Challenge Wives' Ministry office at (515) 674-3713 ext. 221.

All That I Need

At a completion service last week, Bob Larson reminded us all of the quote, "You can't say that God is all you need until He is all that you have." While your husband is in Teen Challenge you have a golden opportunity to experience intimacy and dependence on Him like never before.

How do we get to the point where we are solely satisfied by God. Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well, "...the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life." (John 4:14)

The beautiful thing about God is that while we are on this earth, we can never know Him completely. There is always more of Him to know. He is like a present that continually unwraps. We can always be filled again, to a greater degree than ever before. There is always a new level of intimacy to be reached. How can a tea cup hold the ocean? The more we drink, the thirstier we become. He is so good.

Are you thirsty? Have you been trying to use other things to quench your thirst? Spend time with God. Ask Him to fill you. Spend time in His word, spend time in worship. He is the only thing that is eternal. Everything else can be stripped away in an instant. When you know Jesus intimately, and depend on Him, you can always walk in security.



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Birth Announcement



Jennifer finally had her baby! Jocelyn Nicole Ridgway was born on January 16th. She weighed 7 lbs., 11oz., and was 20.5 inches long. Thanks for all of your prayers and encouragement. She's a blessing!