



# The Challenger

January, 2006

## Admissions Process-The Path to a Changed Life

Jake: *Hi. Uh...I, I really need some help. Uh...my uncle said that this is a Christian program.*

Intake Staff: *Yes, Teen Challenge is a Christian discipleship program for men with life-controlling problems, whether it's drugs, alcohol, gambling, pornography, or just anything that is controlling your life. Does that description fit you?*

Jake: *Yah. I guess I have a problem with alcohol. How long would I have to be there?*

Intake Staff: *The program is a minimum of fifteen months long.*

Jake: *Wow, man. Fifteen months? That's a really long time. I don't know if I can do that. I've got a wife and a kid to support.*

Intake Staff: *Think about it though. Fifteen months are nothing compared to knowing that you could be living totally free for the **rest of your life**. I'm not going to lie to you. It'll be hard, and you'll probably want to leave numerous times throughout your time here, especially since you have a wife and a child. But, you know what, if you come and let God **really** transform your life while you're here, you'll be that husband and that father that your family deserves to have. It's a small sacrifice for what God will do in your life in return.*

What you've just read is an example of conversations that go on almost daily in our Intake department.

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People call from all over the country asking how they or a family member or friend can come into the Teen Challenge program to start on the path to a changed life.

So, just what does our admissions process entail? How can someone become a student at Teen Challenge of the Midlands? Well, the very first step is to decide that you need your life to change. One of the first things we like to tell people is that the program is a free will program, meaning that our students have to want to be here. If a man is here for any other reason than surrendering to Jesus Christ and letting the Lord transform him, the program will not work. They need to want change and be committed to the process of change.

The second step would be to complete an application. You can find our applications at our website, [www.tcmid.org](http://www.tcmid.org), under "Admissions Process," or we can send one to you through the mail. The application must be notarized then mailed along with a \$20 application fee. Once our Intake Coordinator, Isaac Hunsberger, has reviewed the information, he will call the applicant for an interview. We always encourage applicants to come to the center for the interview so they can tour the facility and meet some of our current students, but we also conduct many of our interviews over the phone if an in-person interview is not possible. Normally during the interview, Isaac is able to let the applicant know if he is accepted or not and then set an intake date.

Once a student is accepted he must have a physical and must complete additional paperwork. From the time we receive the application to the time the student enters the program, the admissions process can take up to two weeks.

Do you need a program like Teen Challenge? Get on the path to a changed life. The first step might be the hardest, but like the Intake Coordinator told Jake in the conversation above, it's definitely worth it.

# SET FREE! – A Testimony of Hope

It all started in 1985. I was born into a loving, God fearing family with a great home, complete with Mom, Dad, and Sister. I couldn't complain. For four years, life was bliss. It was the epitome of a mid-western household. For four years, I looked up to and learned from my older sister and parents. I knew nothing else but Sunday school classes and their love. Then all of a sudden my small little four year old world turned upside down with divorce.

Eight years after my parents were married they split. In between, my sister and I were left with the biggest decision of our short lives. Who do we live with, Mom or Dad? They left it up to us. I remember my sister saying, "Mommy," and I soon followed. Almost instantly my father was gone, and my mother picked up a new friend. He was a real jerk who took pleasure in working on his Harley and beating my mom. To top it off, he was involved with drug dealing. So at a young age, my only male role model was a drug dealer with long hair.

My real dad was around but not all that much. When he was, I still occasionally went to church and spent quality time with a constructive man of God. By the time I was nine years old, I was experimenting with cigarettes, marijuana, alcohol, and pornographic material. It was easy and appeared to be fun, so why not?

By the age of thirteen, my life was backwards, big time. I began smoking and selling marijuana occasionally which soon turned into a life-controlling habit. I still did well in school and even made some money, but I was totally unfulfilled and depression began to rear its ugly head.

When I was sixteen, I was smoking weed every day and selling some to keep up my habit. I was really down. I knew there was something more. I had accumulated by this point, two cars and fifty-

six thousand dollars. My dad saw me as lost, my mom was just tired of me, and I felt like a man and a loser at the same time.

At that point, I moved in with my dad and began to work at a local restaurant where I was introduced to the dark, dark world of crystal meth. For a while it was a once in a while pleasure, but it soon turned into a nasty addiction.

I graduated high school during this time, went to college and moved out on my own. Within three years of doing my first line of "ice" crystal meth, I had lost everything. Both of my cars, all of my money, my college career, and the most devastating thing: my family. My family really wanted nothing to do with my present condition. I needed help.



I heard about this place called Teen Challenge and a familiar name I once knew, Jesus. Since coming to Teen Challenge on July 14th of 2005, I've surrendered all to this wonderful God. My addictions are gone. On top

of all of that, my family supports and can't wait to see me. My life through Christ has not been the same since. It's been an unbelievable, undeniable transformation. I can honestly say that my old friends would not recognize me. God's transforming power works inside and out.

Christ has completely renewed and touched my emotions. I used to be severely unhappy. I was even diagnosed as manically depressed. Through Jesus I have a new joy: light feet if you will. After loosing almost everything and joining Christ, I can not even explain how fulfilling and joy-filled just simple everyday life can be. I am no longer surviving, but living with peace. Without a shadow of a doubt, I know this peace is more real than anything I've ever experienced. After only twenty years, I feel I've experienced just enough to say that God's love will complete and renew any circumstances.

# Teen Challenge and UPS: A Win-Win Situation

Since 1999, Teen Challenge staff and students have worked on the Des Moines Airport tarmacs for UPS during the busy Christmas season. Don Goodman, former Air Operations Manager for UPS, said that they were short workers during the peak season in '99. As Don worked on a solution to the problem, he thought about the possibility of teaming up with Teen Challenge to create that much needed work force. After approaching Warren Hunsberger, our Executive Director, UPS and Teen Challenge negotiated an agreement. It was a win-win situation: our staff and students would perform temporary work during UPS' busy season and Teen Challenge would receive a substantial check to support the program and its operational needs.



*Staff and Students in front of a UPS cargo container*

Staff and students work from the week of Thanksgiving up until Christmas. We work three days a week with one final four-day week, scheduling the work around our program so that students don't miss out on any discipleship. We perform jobs such as handling containers that come in on UPS trucks and from the airport sort center. We also unload and load plane bellies. Normally very few planes come in throughout the regular season, but during peak season twelve to eighteen planes will come every day!



*Two students pose for the camera at the Des Moines Airport*

UPS benefits by working with one organization to obtain much needed help. An added advantage is that Teen Challenge workers are dependable and don't call in sick at the last minute! Teen Challenge appreciates the experience that our students receive working for a Fortune 500 company, and the money we receive covers almost one month's operating expenses! The contract between UPS and Teen Challenge of the Midlands is definitely a win-win situation!

## Leaving a Legacy...

Teen Challenge of the Midlands is pleased to introduce a new service for all of our faithful supporters. We have a Director of Planned Giving, Alan Briscoe, who is available to meet with any of our donors that would like to look at tax-advantaged ways of giving to this ministry. Alan has an MBA in Finance and experience as a Financial Advisor in the investment arena. He has gone through the Crown Financial Ministries Course which was started by Larry Burkett and has been certified as a Will Preparation Seminar Leader. Each month, in the Leaving a Legacy section, we will introduce a different subject in this area that might be of benefit to you as you look at your own personal situation.

This month, we would like to make sure that all of our partners in ministry that do not have a will know about a service that we can provide them. Teen Challenge, in conjunction with AG Financial, will prepare a will or even

a stewardship trust at **no cost** to you as long as there is at least a 10% designation to ministry. We hope that you consider Teen Challenge of the Midlands as a beneficiary of part of your estate, but you decide which ministries you want to bless with the assets that the Lord has entrusted to you. By setting up a will or a trust, you spell out exactly how you want everything distributed in order to eliminate any confusion, heartache, or even having someone else decide for you where everything goes. You can spell out medical directives, and with a trust you may even be able to set everything up so that it avoids the delay and expense of probate.

As we mentioned, there is no expense to you for this service. Please feel free to call us at the center or you can reach Alan directly on his cell phone at (417) 693-1445.

Mailing label goes here

*Helping People Who Hurt*

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*A student is bundled up for work  
on the UPS tarmac*