

Mailing label goes here

Helping People Who Hurt

Inside This Issue:

- Des Moines Center Gets a Makeover! Pg. 1
- Set Free! -- A Testimony of Hope Pg. 2
- Set Free! -- A Testimony of Hope Pg. 3



Richard Cox has been faithfully volunteering at our Urban Center for several months, and has spent countless hours renovating the building. THANK YOU Richard! He works so hard on our building that he doesn't even have time to stop and smile for a picture!

Teen Challenge Urban Center Gets a Makeover!



Before and after pictures of the Urban Center exterior.

Thanks to generous donations, many volunteers and hours of labor, our Urban Center is in full renovation mode! A special thanks to Berean Assembly of God in Des Moines, Iowa, and the Iowa Ministry Network for their generous donations. "Over the last couple years we've been able to get a lot of building renovations done. It's been fun to watch God provide, however there's still a long ways to go. Our goal is to create safe housing for hurting folks as they work through the process of getting into Teen Challenge of the Midlands. The center will also dual as a base to reach out to the community and surrounding areas. Reaching the lost, hopeless and afflicted with the love of Jesus, and the truth of His word." Scott Reddish, Urban Center Staff

Thank you to all the individuals who have donated time to work on this ongoing project! Roger McKim, David Koesters, Richard Cox, Shenendoah Assembly of God, and Fort Dodge Assembly all helped on the renovation in 2010, and we look forward to the work to be done in 2011! "The completed Urban Center

will allow Teen Challenge of the Midlands to extend our reach, bringing the light of Jesus even further into the darkness of this world. We receive phone calls on a weekly basis from people who beg us to give them a safe place to come in order to break free from the disastrous influences in their life. Our ultimate goal is to bring radical transformation to more people." Jeff Arp, Urban Center Staff.

Please pray with us as we continue to raise funds to complete this project. "We are very excited for what the future holds for the Urban Center! We are thankful for what God has done, and we are asking you to prayerfully consider getting involved by giving an extra gift to the Urban Center renovation. It is an ongoing project, and we covet your prayers and gifts as we strive to reach more people with the hope of Christ." Michael Hunserger, Colfax Executive Director.



Left: Putting in a door frame to complete the lobby.

Right: Youth from Fort Dodge Assembly add a little beauty by landscaping the front yard.



SET FREE! — A Testimony of Hope

My name is Kyle, and I grew up in a non-Christian home with a brother five years older than me. We were, by the world's standards, pretty normal. We went out on the weekends to parks and whatnot while I was young, but as I go

I found friends that thought kind of like me. We smoked pot and drank to hide what we felt. That was my lifestyle all through my teens; driving drunk, partying all the time and doing whatever I wanted. I ended up dropping out of school to get my GED. Soon after, everything started to go downhill, and all I wanted was to get messed up. When I reached 18, my mom and dad wanted me out of the house.

I began working at different factories to make money, using more powerful drugs to kill the pain. I used Meth to stay awake, and alcohol to sleep, but that soon wore off and I started using Cocaine. I eventually settled into a job where I made good money and had a cocaine connection. In my eyes, I had it made. I just needed a girlfriend. I did find one, and she got pregnant, which only made my drug use heavier. I let one of my friends move in with us to help with rent because my habits were expensive, and he was a diabetic with an endless supply of clean needles. I began shooting up to get rid of the doubts I had about the child being mine. The baby was born on July 27, and my life took yet another turn for the worse. Between my addictions and



Kyle, Omaha, Nebraska Student

doubts, I could rarely think straight. I was in a constant state of depression, and absolutely hated life. I found out after a year of torturing myself that that the baby wasn't mine. This both devastated me, and relieved me, and over the next six months I tried to kill myself three times. I just did not want life anymore.

My mom knew what I was going through, and had been saved a year or two prior to all of this. She was continually praying for me. I had got to a point where I was trapped with no job, no money and living at my parents house. This was when I found out about Teen Challenge and decided to go.

Since then, I have gone through an emotional, spiritual, mental and physical change. I am now in the re-entry program in Omaha, Nebraska. The Lord has restored my life, and I no longer want to die or hate life. Instead, I am full of life, thanks to God. All the searching I did for fulfillment and life ended up being God I was looking for. Now I pursue Him constantly, and allow Him to shine through me. God has turned me from a junkie to a disciple of Christ, and neither I, nor my family could be happier about it.

I look forward to what God is going to do in my life, and what He has for me. I would suggest Teen Challenge to anyone with addictions, or someone who needs discipling. I have found that the best place to be is right in the center of God's will, and I don't intend on budging from that position.

SET FREE! — A Testimony of Hope

For most of my life, I had a feeling of worthlessness, and of never being enough. My way of coping with these feelings was seeking attention, and it didn't matter if it was good or bad. At school, negative attention seemed to be mostly what I received since books didn't come as naturally as playing music or sports. At home, it also seemed to be a lot of negative attention as well, as my parents were dealing with marriage difficulties that eventually led to separation.

I dropped out before high school, and found myself running with individuals much older than me. They opened me up to a world that no one should ever see. I found acceptance here, and thought this was it. But I soon found myself stealing, drinking, being promiscuous, using and selling drugs. I also found myself very hurt, angry with my family (and anyone else for that matter), depressed, confused and hateful to the world.

As I was off in my own world, by God's grace, my parents reconciled, and a week before their divorce was finalized, they called it off. I wish I could say that was the start of my turn around, but it actually got worse before it got better. I found myself in a very abusive relationship, and was continuing in negative cycles. In all of the mess, I found myself reaching out

for help from a local church. I was searching, and didn't even know it. I felt safe there, and found myself visiting again and building new relationships with people who loved me and cared for me. Throughout the next year they walked alongside of me, and eventually walked me out of an abusive relationship and to the doors of Teen Challenge on September 2, 2009.



Gretta, completed Pella, Iowa Student

Since I have come to Teen Challenge so much healing and forgiveness has taken place! One thing that I find quite amazing is that before entering Teen Challenge I had never read an entire book. Now I can say that I have read the whole Bible, as well as books for classes and contracts. On top of it all, I also received my high school diploma in June. I once believed that I was stupid, but a verse that has been used again and again in my life this year is, "With God, all things are possible." He has proved that, and I plan to give him praise for what, and who He is, and what He has done in my life.

I completed Teen Challenge at the end of December, and am staying in Pella to save and prepare to attend either college, or the International House of Prayer in Kansas City. I am excited for my future and for what God will do. God has blessed my life, and this year has been the best year of my life. They tell me the best is yet to come!