

Teen Challenge Update

Colfax Training Center

July 2009

Alumni, Alumni, Alumni...



Every Year Celebration Weekend is a wonderful time to commemorate the lives of our graduating students! We spent the weekend enjoying each other's company, laughing about past memories, and encouraging one other in our hope for what God has out ahead. It was an exciting weekend spent honoring what Jesus accomplished in our graduates lives and commending them for their willingness to say YES to Him. We're proud of you guys!

The Weekend was kicked off Friday evening with a barbeque and worship concert performed by Jeff Booth from Glad Tidings Church. The festivities were hosted in house at the Teen Challenge chapel in Colfax, IA. Our staff vs. student softball game started Saturday morning bright and early, and we finished up the morning with a delicious brunch. Saturday's commencement service was again held at the Teen Challenge center, in the chapel, located in Colfax, IA. Followed by a reception dinner down stairs in the dinning room.

In order to graduate a completed student must remain accountable to a pastor in their life and call us back once a month for a year. All in all the program from the initial step across the threshold, on the first day until graduation it about a two year process.

We had a tremendous crowd as we payed tribute to our largest graduating class to date. We had eleven guys this year that walked across the stage in cap and gown to receive their diploma. Eleven guys that were once hopeless in oppression, addiction, sin, and despair... Eleven guys

that were pushed to the side by some and considered to be throw away trash cases, unwanted and seemingly useless. Eleven guys that Jesus looked at with love in His eyes and said, "This one's Mine." Eleven guys who now have their lives, families, and joy back because of Jesus. Eleven guys that will never be the same again: Tyler Carter, Thomas Cavanaugh, Stuart Colliatie, Dave Woodcock, Steve Clouse, Bill Barnes, Brian Collier, Randy Young, Ed Burke, Chris Winkler, and Chris Buscher.

We also want to acknowledge this year's Alumnus Achievement Award which went to Matt Cook. After graduating in 1999, Matt headed to Bible College in Pensacola, FL. There he met and married his wife of ten years, Laura. After graduating from college, Matt and Laura ministered at the TC in Chattanooga, TN for four years. They are currently in Ankeny, IA where Matt began a construction business. Matt and Laura have two daughters, Anna and Abigail.

If you would like more information about the Teen Challenge program please contact Scott Reddish at s.reddish@tcmid.org (515) 674-3713 Ext. 248.



Matt Cook



Class of 09'

Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace



Chris Winkler

In April of 2008 I completed Teen Challenge's program and started down the path that God had for me. I've been walking out all I've been taught through Jesus' Lordship.

Teen Challenge taught me to have an intimate relationship with my Lord and Savior, to be a disciple, to surrender my will into His hands, to reconcile relationships, and to live under authority.

Many current students will tell you that Teen Challenge is a CHALLENGE. But many completed students will agree with me when I say that the true challenge is daily walking out all you're taught in the program on a day to day basis. Hebrews 12:1-2 states, "...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning it's shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

EVERY DAY must be surrendered into His hands. We must be focused, staring straight at Jesus. A day spent independent of the Lord is giving the devil a foothold in your life. Every day I must wake up... there is not a choice in that. I must make choices every day to stay in the word and seek God's truth. Without God's truth planted in my heart I would start to believe the enemy's lies and get deceived. I'm also very careful with the people I place around me; I no longer have relationships with my former friends. God has blessed my obedience with a wonderful bible loving church, a loving wife who daily encourages my walk with God, a wonder-

ful accountability partner that always points me towards His truth, a family who counsels and encourages me, and many new friends whom all lead me to the cross.

Shortly before I completed Teen Challenge thoughts of how my life would look at home began to dominate me. I was terrified of not being able to find a job. Early on both my wife and I made the decision to look to God's standards for our best and not this world's standards. We chose not to be concerned with what kind of job, the location, the pay and such. Instead we prayed that I would be placed in a job where I was surrounded by Godly men that could keep me accountable and where God would open doors for me to disciple others. We knew that by praying God centered prayers all the other needs we had would be taken care of. That isn't to say we haven't faced many trials. We've been tested and through the trials God has strengthened our character and is continuing to refine us. I've learned that trials are just opportunities for God to be glorified!

I've had great opportunities to speak to many people of the saving power of Jesus Christ. I GET to serve others every day and by serving others I am truly serving God. I've been put in situations where I had to make a choice to blend in or to take a stand and be bold for Christ. God has always honored my obedience. I've made a decision that I'm no longer a friend of this world. I have and will continue to face persecution and be an outcast. Bringing God glory with my life is more important than fitting in or my comfort; it's been an awesome experience. It's truly an honor and a privilege to serve God and His people.

This June I became an official Teen Challenge of the Midlands graduate. I'm excited for what God has for my family and me in the future. God Bless all of you!

CONTACT INFORMATION

You can reach our Admissions Director by email at: lhunsberger@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
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