

Teen Challenge Update

Wives Weekend Ministers to Eight Couples

Eight couples recently went through the Teen Challenge of the Midlands Wives Weekend. Thursday evening began with orientation and fellowship. We feel it is important for the wives to have the opportunity to reach out to one another, as well as have time to spend with their spouses. One of the wives explained, "The most helpful part of the weekend was the realization that I am not alone. God can and will help me and he showed me through the testimonies of the other women." The next two days consisted of the following classes: "Intimacy," "God's Design for Marriage," and "When You're Married to an Addict." Testimonies of God's faithfulness also encouraged the couples. Another favorite part of the weekend was the devotional/small-group time. On Friday night, the couples attended our Worship/Intercession service in Des Moines. Jennifer Ridgway, Teen Challenge's Wives Ministry Coordinator, led the weekend and was very pleased with the result. "The Holy Spirit really ministered to the women in individual and unique ways. God knew what they needed when they walked in, and it's awesome to



see Him restoring relationships." Many of the Teen Challenge women helped organize and plan the weekend doing everything from decorating to praying for a specific wife. Also, Emmanuel Fellowship of Omaha, put together individual gift bags full of lotions, bath salts, candles, etc., to pamper the wives. "When their husbands come into Teen Challenge, the wives are left to take care of their household. Spending money on themselves often becomes a rarity. Emmanuel Fellowship ministered the heart of Jesus to the wives by blessing them in such an extravagant way." Thank you Emmanuel Fellowship! Our wives were certainly blessed by your generous gift. Here at Teen Challenge, we are very excited for our next Wives Weekend which will be sometime at the end of summer. We will keep you posted regarding dates and other pertinent details and if anyone would like to help in any way, please contact Jennifer Ridgway at our Colfax Center.



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Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

My name is Bob, a man who lives today by faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ. I am now a man who has hope and vision and a desire to be used of God to reach the lost. Jesus is first and foremost in my life today, but I wasn't always able to say these things.

Approximately 13 months ago, my life was a wreck. I was miserable, angry, lost, depressed, suicidal, violent, etc. My life revolved around getting my fix which was methamphetamines, marijuana, and pornography. I would use people, including my family (which never gave up on me, thanks be to God), to get what I needed. I had become a person that I swore I would never be.

When I was around eight years old, my father got a job which took him away from the family anywhere from 12-16 hours a day, seven days a week. I don't recall seeing my dad much, and my mother (unsaved at the time) had to assume both parent roles. This was very difficult and stressful for her, so needless to say, things were very dysfunctional. Seeking attention from a father figure, I began to get violent in school. I began to believe that to be accepted I had to fight. When I turned 14, I began to drink. By 16, I was smoking marijuana and by 18, I



would do just about any drug that you put in front of me. At this time, I became very unruly for my parents and for the law. Between the ages of 19-23, I had acquired two DWI's and two felony aggravated assaults which I got 13 years probation for. By the time I turned 31-32, I was hanging out with Hell's Angels (bikers) and working as a bouncer in a topless bar.

During these years I had tried rehabs, A.A., N.A, etc., but nothing worked. I finally came to the conclusion that I was destined to die a drug/alcohol addict, either by my own hand or someone else's. In 1995-96, my mom gave her life to the Lord and through her, God began to plant seeds in me; I could not deny the changes I saw in my mom's life. Sometime in the year 2000, Mom mentioned Teen Challenge to me (God planting another seed). On April 2, 2001, I entered the Teen Challenge Brookings, South Dakota center, at which time God took away every craving I had, including a 2-2 1/2 packs of cigarettes a day habit. On April 7, 2001, I got on my knees and asked Jesus to be the Lord and savior of my life. Today, there is nothing more I desire than to be in a personal relationship with God. For me today, **every** day is a testimony of what God is doing in my life.