

Teen Challenge Update

Colfax Training Center

June, 2010

Summer Snapshots

Summer is a busy time here at Teen Challenge of the Midlands! During the afternoon work time, there is no shortage of things to do! We have over an acre and a half of gardens to tend to, and forty acres of grounds to mow and keep looking good. On Monday nights during the summer, we even have softball games just for fun! Here are a few pictures from a day in the life of a TC student on a summer's day.



Students Ronald and Thomas are hard at work in our garden. We get to enjoy fresh tomatoes, lettuce, radishes, squash and much more all summer long! It is such a blessing to have fresh vegetables and delicious sweet corn for our meals!



Chris, at left, is washing our Teen Challenge bus. To the right, Ryan is at bat for Teen Challenge at one of our Monday night softball games.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Valley Bank 13th Annual Teen Challenge Golf Marathon (100 holes of Healing and Hope) is September 20th! This is a fun, exciting way to raise money for Teen Challenge of the Midlands, and we would love for you to join us! Please contact Joel Byford at (515) 205-9537 if you would like to golf, or if you would like to sponsor a golfer.



Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

At the age of fourteen, my life began to go downhill. My mother was sick with diabetes and suffered a heart attack. After about a week at the hospital in our town, she was sent to the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa city. Upon arrival to the hospital, my dad, brother and sister-in-law, and I learned that my mother went home to be with the Lord. Grief set in, and depression soon followed. Two years later, my father was diagnosed with a brain tumor which rendered him mentally and physically incapacitated. For the first time in my life I found myself completely alone. No parents, no direction, and no one who cared. I was sixteen. It seemed like the only people who wanted me around were my Uncle Mel and my Aunt Sherry. My uncle tried his best to show me how to be a good, godly man, but I rebelled against him.



Tommy, Colfax, Iowa Student

I moved from my small town in Southern Iowa to the city, and got involved with drugs and alcohol, never realizing that I had a problem. I had a girlfriend and two kids by the time I was twenty-two. I thought I had everything I needed: a girlfriend, a home, two children, two nice cars and a decent job. What I didn't have was a relationship with the Lord. Later in life, the demons of guilt and grief evolved into shame, anger, and rage. I was ravaged with hate, and this took a toll on many relationships. After I was married to a very wonderful woman, the monster surfaced after being suppressed for so long. My wife Barbara loved me enough to push me away from her and our children. She wanted a divorce. I was depressed, asking God why I was alive. I was just waiting to die.

It was at this point that I decided I needed help. I was looking through the phone book to find some psychiatric help when I saw an ad for Teen Challenge. What a revelation! I called the number and explained my situation to the intake coordinator. He told me that God had a plan for my life. I was

elated. I cried, I laughed, but most importantly, I yielded to my humility. Before I even walked through the doors at Teen Challenge, the Lord began to restore my relationship with Him and my marriage to the most wonderful woman on the planet. We are getting along beautifully now and she comes to see me with our children every chance she gets.

The Lord is blessing me with healing in my spirit, mind, and body! He is the true living God who reigns! He restores! He heals! Most of all, He loves us beyond measure. Romans 8:38 says, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Not death, life, angels, demons, fears, worries, even the powers of hell. Not height, depth, or anything in creation!" Praise God!

I called on Him in my time of misery, and He heard me. His hand was always on me. I made the decision to invite Him to work in my life when I surrendered to Him in humility! Psalm 18:28-29 says, "Lord, you have brought light into my life. My God, you light up my darkness. In your strength I can crush an army; with my God I can scale any wall."

I know that had it not been for the Lord working in my life, I would be nothing! I owe all that I am and all that I have to Him. He has blessed me with a fresh start and a new relationship with Him! Amen! The Lord has blessed me beyond what I could ever imagine. My wife and I were recently blessed with \$60,000 worth of updates to our home, and our marriage is being restored. God has restored relationships with family members that I have hurt, and praise God, I have been blessed with new life in the bloodline of the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords and my eternal Savior! He gave His all for me; the least I can do is give my all for Him. I am here at Teen Challenge to let the Lord show me the way so that I can lead my family, and those around me. I'm not quite sure what the Lord's plan for my life is yet, but I'm awfully excited to find out!

CONTACT INFORMATION

You can reach our Admissions Director by email at: i.hunsberger@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
641.628.2808

Teen Challenge of Nebraska
2916 N. 58th St.
Omaha, NE 68104
402.551.2322