

# Teen Challenge Update

Colfax Training Center

June, 2011

## New Life in Christ

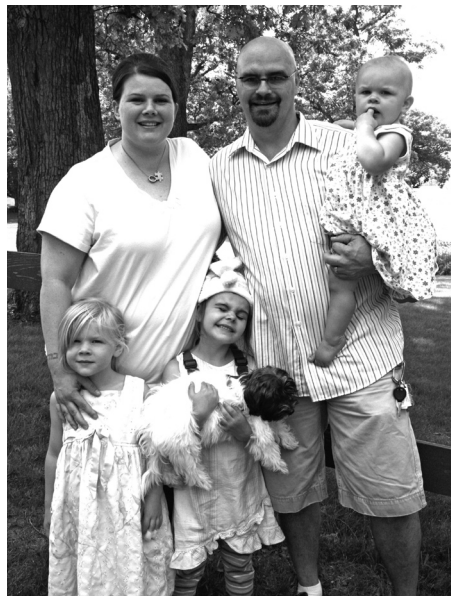
“God, do you have anything that can capture my heart like meth?” “If this [Teen Challenge] doesn’t work Lord, I’m going to stop trying to be a Christian, and I’ll run until I die!”

These are statements of a lifelong Christian who gave his heart to Jesus when he was four years old, a man who had witnessed and participated in mind-blowing miracles and encounters with the Creator. They were made by someone who had spent countless hours on his face, weeping before the majesty of the King of Kings. They were also made by someone completely overtaken by methamphetamine, alcohol, cigarettes, and pretty much every addictive substance or behavior available.

My name is Jason Webb, and I entered Teen Challenge of the Midlands on November 28, 2000. I had come to Iowa on the 26th from Seattle, Washington with the purpose of getting into the program. I was exhausted, both physically and spiritually. My tenuous hold on some kind of faith in Jesus was frayed, and about to snap.

I grew up in church, gave God my heart at four years old, went to a Christian school, and was filled with the Holy Spirit and actually felt the hand of the Lord touch my forehead. All those experiences in my life gave me a conviction of the existence of Jesus, but

nowhere in my life was I disciplined to walk as Jesus walked. I had no set of real instruction as to how to, in a real way, live as a Christian.



Christina & Jason Webb (L-R) Selah, Nevaeh (with dog Jasper) and Danica.

When the trials, hurts and temptations of life came to me, I gave in. It was a gradual process, and in the face of the Holy Spirit conscience that lived in me. Little by little, my spiritual psyche began to fracture and split, causing a dual focus. Inside my heart was an intense desire to be acknowledged by someone, something. If I could just gain some level of acceptance from the world that had rejected me, I would be okay. Can you see the dog chasing his tail? My lack of identity was born out of not having a father in my life, and from not really knowing my Father in Heaven.

Sure, I knew of him, but I never gave him my life. I never sacrificed my will to Him. I lived my life as I saw fit. The Bible says that there is a way that seems right to a man, but the end is death.

After years of running around trying to catch my tail, trying to get recognition from those rejecting me, I was introduced to pornography and drugs. These things began to fill my life and heart, because they never said no to me. They never said that I was not good enough for them. If I could just focus on the immediate gratification they offered, without seeing the destruction

## New Life in Christ, Cont.

left in their wake, I would be sated. That need to be seen and heard had seemingly been filled. What I didn’t realize was that I was only seen as a source of nourishment for those vices, and they fed off the dying screams of my spirit. I spiraled deeper down the web of deception and death until the profession of my faith was a caricature, something to be mocked. There I was with a pipe in my hand, preaching to my fellow addicts. If there is a better example of pathetic, I don’t know. I was the epitome of the word.

I overdosed on meth in 2000, and ended up in the hospital almost dead. So that stopped me in my tracks, right? That episode shook me out of my own filth, and caused me to stand up and change my life, right? Wrong, I fled deeper into the darkness. I soon found myself homeless, staying in an abandoned apartment, stealing power through the wall from the apartment next door. My only possessions were a half-broke bicycle, a back-pack with a change of clothes and porn. In all my trials and lack, I always had that. It was my first and last drug of choice. It was the hardest adversary I faced, and the most destructive.

I finally surrendered, and allowed myself to come to Teen Challenge. I was given a plane ticket by my family, and the entry fee to get in the door. My time at TC was filled with the struggle in my heart of a religious man filled with knowledge, but never any proof of being a Christ follower. I was in Colfax for 16 months straight. I had so many selfish barriers erected in me, but the one that started the biggest change was one that broke my heart in a thousand pieces. The Lord showed me that I never even knew who He was. I had set up an image of Jesus in my heart who was not Him. I had been worshipping a false god.

He does not just leave you with that bombshell though. In that moment of revelation, He reveals Himself. Praise God, that in the revelation of deception, I was introduced to Truth. You see, that is the only way to reveal deception, and the funny thing about deception is that you don’t know it. Not until Truth comes and rips the scales off the eyes, and you can see the Light in which you are standing!

Teen Challenge taught me how to be a disciple of Christ. I was no longer a decision for Christ. I am not perfect in my walk, I struggled with pornography long after I completed and graduated. I never allowed that aspect of my life to be exposed to Truth while I was in Teen Challenge. What I did gain was the ability and knowledge to walk as He walked, and how to get up when I fell. Today, I am free of the besetting sins that plagued my life, and when I stumble, I get up, repent and walk in that freedom.

I am now on staff at Teen Challenge, and in charge of the kitchen. I am married, and God has blessed us with three wonderful girls. Most importantly, I am free. I completed Teen Challenge the fall of 2002, and graduated in June, 2004. I am no longer a disciple of Christ; I am His friend. We walk together, we laugh and talk and He shows me Himself. I am continually learning new things about Him and about myself in Him. You see, I finally have that recognition and acknowledgment I so craved. I am a son and friend of the Most High God.

### Kitchen Wish List

CIA Hyde Park Cutlery 5 Piece Knife Set with Bonus Cutlery Roll, or equivalent

Silicone Spatulas, heat resistant, various sizes

Silicone Measuring cups, 2 sets

Chef’s Choice Diamond Hone Hybrid Knife Sharpener Model 220

Muffin Pans

If you would like to donate money for these items, please mark your donation “Kitchen.”

### CONTACT INFORMATION

You can reach our Admissions Director by email at: [i.hunsberger@tcmid.org](mailto:i.hunsberger@tcmid.org)

Visit our website at: [www.tcmid.org](http://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