



Teen Challenge Graduate Recognized

Chad Ireland is a June, 2000 graduate of Teen Challenge of the Midlands. He lives and works in Ankeny, IA. Chad attends Heartland Assembly of God, where Rev. Dave Olson, also a Teen Challenge graduate, is pastor. Chad continues involvement with Teen Challenge, where he helps mentor men who come from hopelessly addicted backgrounds. He was recently honored as Coldwell Banker's Number One Sales Associate. This is his testimony:

"I was a 27-year-old dead man. I spent the two years prior to entering Teen Challenge addicted to meth, sleeping 4-5 nights a week at the most. Over time, I graduated from meth to crack cocaine. I was self-employed, with a lot of freedom, but my addiction led me to steal from my family, friends and complete strangers. Eventually, I lost my job, two houses, my truck, motorcycle, boat, and all

my friends. I spent close to \$60,000 smoking crack.



Teen Challenge graduate and Coldwell Banker's Number One Sales Associate Company Wide, Chad Ireland

I finally ended up living in my car for the last month before coming to Teen Challenge. As a child, I'd read and heard about Jesus in Sunday School, but never really knew Him. I remember crying out to God one night, telling Him I was sick of this life and wanted change...that was the cry of my heart. Little did I know He heard me, and within a week I was at Teen Challenge! Three weeks later I asked Christ into my life and the next day when I woke up, the desire for drugs was completely gone! The next challenge was to complete the program and let

the Lord mold me, which he continues to do today."

Congratulations, Chad, on all the hard work! We thank God for the amazing work He has done in your life and continues to do. Praise the Lord!

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Cursillo Weekend Blesses TC Staff and Students

Teen Challenge was recently blessed during its 7th Cursillo (pronounced Kur-see-yo) weekend put on by area churches and volunteers.

The Cursillo movement seeks to make Christianity relevant to all parts of life. Cursillo began when a group in Majorca, Spain examined the condition of the Church. From 1943 to 1947 they formulated a method to help renew the



Don Faidley sits with students and staff during mealtime at Cursillo

Church. They called it Cursillo, or a "short course" or "short experience" in the fundamental teachings of Jesus as lived with other Christians.

The first Cursillo weekend was held in the United States in the late 1950's. From this beginning it has been introduced to many denominations.

A Cursillo is different from most Christian retreats or conferences because Cursillo has also developed an on-going program to help keep the enthusiasm one experiences during Cursillo alive as each person returns to their "normal world." The movement of Cursillos in Christianity is a powerful instrument for renewal in the Church. Its aim is to

concentrate closely on the Person and teachings of Jesus Christ. Cursillo gives those who attend it a living understanding of basic Christian truths, and encourages them to faithfully live according to those truths.

Cursillo first came to Teen Challenge of the Midlands in April, 1997. Pastor Joe Brummel, formerly head pastor at the First Reformed Church in Prairie City, IA, spearheaded the project along with Don and Dorothy Faidley. Since then, both staff and students have been blessed beyond measure by the Cursillo weekends. Not only do the 40-60 volunteers pray continually for us before, during, and after the weekend, but they take care of all of our needs while they are there. They cook, clean, and watch over the center while we participate in the weekend, and they are also involved in the retreat through drama, music, facilitating discussion, teaching, and many more ways! Dorothy Faidley explains, "We go to serve, but always in the process, we are abundantly blessed. Truly we believe it a privilege to share God's love and be so blessed in return. We see prayers answered and the Holy Spirit at work."

The Cursillo weekends are such a blessing to our Teen Challenge family. Not only do our staff and students go through the weekend, but some of our students wives have also been able to participate in recent weekends. To say we are thankful to our Cursillo friends is an understatement. They have blessed us beyond measure, year after year, and we can't wait until next time!

SET FREE! -- God Still Moves

Many of you know our Executive Director and his wife, Warren & Gay Hunsberger. What many of you have not had the opportunity to hear is the testimony of how they were set free from the bondages of sin and how God saved and restored their marriage. We thought that in honor of their upcoming 28th anniversary, we would share a glimpse into their story.

Warren: I was raised in a good home. I had a loving family and was raised in the church, but I never knew Jesus Christ personally. As a teenager I bought the lie that says you only go around once in life and so you've got to grab everything you can along the way. That meant that I went through relationships with other people grabbing all that I could for myself and I started using other people for my enjoyment. That was how I built the first 25 years of my life. I was a jerk. I went off to college and jumped head-long into drugs, alcohol, and all kinds of rebellion. During all of this, I had a grandfather that prayed for me faithfully and did so until the day he died. Gay and I met in college and were married right after I got out of boot camp. After I got out of the Air Force, we went to Ames, Iowa. Something clicked in me when I started at Iowa State. As Gay went to her job working fulltime and I went to school fulltime with a heavy course load, we grew apart. I felt everything was her fault. "If our marriage was what it was supposed to be, if she were the wife she was supposed to be, I wouldn't feel like I did." So, naturally, the way you fix that is you get rid of her. I came home and over dinner said, "Gee, I really respect you, I really think you're a great person, but I want a divorce," and left.

Gay: I went into marriage with lots of expectations and our marriage problems were never all Warren. It was 50/50. When Warren said he wanted a divorce, I thought he was joking. We had fought so much and made up so many times that I just assumed we would make up this time too. We went to our separate families for Thanksgiving and I was sure when we came home, he'd have open arms and everything would be all right, but he said, "I want a separation," and emotionally it blew me away. He moved out and I began to slide down into depression. I moved home to my parents and found out I was pregnant. Warren had another women that he said that he was in love with and was going to marry. I was a mess and a doctor asked me to admit myself into the psychiatric hospital. At that point, I didn't care, so I went. I wanted to agree with everyone telling me to get sign the divorce papers, but something kept pulling me back. It hurt too much to be angry. I spent 30 days in the hospital. I started going to the Chapel, and it was there that Jesus Christ entered my life. He spoke to me clearly and I felt His peace. When I got out, I was still sort of depressed. I got invited to a Bible study and when I told them why I was there, they said, "We can stand in faith for this marriage," and it was the first glimmer of hope for me. That sum-

mer was one of the richest times of my life. I experienced walking in the Holy Spirit like I don't think I ever have. As summer went on, it became time for birth classes. Warren would drive and meet me and we would go up as the happy couple and no one knew the difference. Our baby came three weeks early.



Warren: I can remember standing in the delivery room. I stood there holding my firstborn daughter and just began to cry. I remember thinking, "You jerk! You jerk! What are you doing? You've got to try and give this little girl a home." I didn't know how we were going to do it, but I had to come home and try to put this thing back together again. I know now that God was working in my life. I did come home for a year and I was miserable the entire time. I was going to summer school, working in the evenings and I had just enough energy to get my homework done. I'd sleep on the coach until it was time to go to work and then I'd come home from work and go right to bed. I didn't want to be awake because then I'd have to think about things. For a year I lived like that, trying to survive on my own strength. A month before Sarah's first birthday, I said, "I've had it. There's nothing left in me." I immediately left and filed for divorce.

Gay: During this time, as I prayed for Warren, I would know that God was doing something tremendous in his heart. When Warren left that second time, I didn't analyze whether it was over or not. I just functioned. I had Jesus Christ living in me and I was physically strong. I had a daughter to care for. I applied for food stamps and just went on with living.

Warren: When I woke up one morning about 3 weeks after leaving again, the first thing on my mind was I had to get my hands on a Bible. So I got one and opened it up and just literally devoured scripture. There was a hunger and I couldn't stop! I also wanted some Christian books, so I went to our house because I knew Gay had some. That night, after reading some of the books, I prayed right there in my bedroom to receive Jesus Christ as my savior. The next day I woke up and everything was different. I was a new person. That change took place because of prayer. Gay prayed for me everyday. People all over this country that I don't even know to this day prayed for me, and when I woke up that morning wanting to get my hands on a Bible, it wasn't coincidence. That was the power of prayer.

If you would like to hear more or to request a copy of the CD, "God Still Moves," check out our new and updated website, www.tcmid.org



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Helping People Who Hurt

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