

# Teen Challenge Update

Colfax Training Center

March, 2011

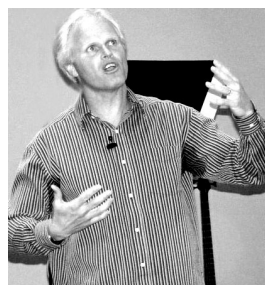
## Upcoming Events



Teen Challenge of the Midlands has a number of upcoming events and opportunities for you to get involved. For more information, please call Libby Hunsberger at (515) 674-3713 ext. 254.

### Colfax Spiritual Emphasis Week-- April 20th - 22nd.

Pastor Dan Mohler will be joining us again for a powerful week. We would love to have you join us for our Wednesday or Thursday evening services at 6:30 at our Colfax center.



**Wives' Weekend-- April 29th - May 1st.** Please pray for a special weekend of healing and restoration in the marriages of our students.

**Pella Garage Sale-- May 14th - 16th.** Our Pella Women's Center is currently taking donations for their 3 day garage sale. Please call (641) 628-2808 for more information regarding donations or volunteering. It's a great opportunity to support Teen Challenge!



**Spring Benefit Dinner-- May 20th.** Tickets are available now to attend our Spring Benefit Dinner at our Colfax center. Come and join us for food and fellowship while supporting Teen Challenge!



**Celebration Weekend-- June 10th - 12th.** Makes plans now to celebrate our 2011 Teen Challenge graduates. This weekend is a highlight of our year as we celebrate all that God has done in restoring lives, healing families, and making disciples.

## Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

I grew up in the small town of Melcher-Dallas. Growing up, my life was really good, and full of love. My mom and dad are divorced, but I've been blessed with a step mom, and a step dad who are as much my parents as my biological ones. I have an older brother and two younger sisters, and I grew up loving sports and played all throughout school. In high school I received honors in football and baseball. When I graduated, instead of chasing my dream to play sports, I followed a girl whom I had dated for three years. That relationship eventually failed. The pain of losing her, and the boredom of not playing sports eventually got to me. I started doing drugs, partying and chasing after whatever filled my void. I grew up going to church, and even gave my life to God. As I look back, I really had the most peace a person could have. Now, chasing something that only numbed me temporarily wasn't cutting it. Knowing truth and being out of God's will really didn't help matters.



Willy and his son, Isaac

In time, I started dating a girl and was destroying my life with drugs, and crime. I was involved in burning down a bar, and between that, and all kinds of trouble with my girlfriend, I was at a low point in my life. Shortly after finding out she was pregnant, I was arrested.

As time went on, even though I knew I was going to be a father soon, I was still trying to find what it was that I was missing. I thought my trouble was my girlfriend, and the drugs, but that was all short term. She and I eventually broke up shortly before our son was born. I didn't see him often because I was in a halfway house. While there, DHS got involved, took our son, and put him in a foster home. Throughout the next year we got to visit him once a week, and in the end we lost our parental rights. It was devastating, and that was when I stopped caring about life. I just wanted to die, but couldn't do it to myself.

I got into more trouble with the law, and finally Teen

Challenge was offered to me. I prayed about it, and sure enough, that's where the judge ordered me to. My first prayer in a long time, and it was answered. At this same time, my son was adopted by a great family. Three weeks after I entered the doors of Teen Challenge the student body visited the same church as my son's family! Now God really answered my prayers! I hadn't seen him in thirteen months. That's the day I surrendered to God, and He showed how much He loved me. God planted my son, the most precious thing to me on earth, back into my life. I have been there eight months, and God just keeps blessing me. I see my son, Isaac, regularly, and have a great relationship with his family.

The void in my heart has been more than filled. Also, the peace I had as a child, I have even more of now. Sometimes I feel so good, I feel as if I could fly. Not only is God restoring my relationships, He has taken my drug addiction, my pain, and all my twisted thoughts away. God has given me a desire to live, and reach out to others.

I've learned to appreciate the small things in life. Especially the time I get to spend with not only my family, but Isaac's family. God put him in that family because He had a better plan. I've learned to let God be my guide. It's not always pretty, but I know the end result will be beautiful. That's the reason I smile every day, because I'm loved no matter what. I believe God has allowed these trials in my life so I can help someone else. All I had to do was call out His name, and when I finally did, He came to me. I now trust Him, and I never want to look back. All I had to do was believe, and when I did, my whole life changed. I can't be more thankful to God! The verse that helps me every day is 1 Peter 5:6-7, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." Nothing is better than God's love, and I hope everyone experiences it.

### 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