

Teen Challenge Update

May 2005

Leave a Legacy through Planned Giving

Have you ever thought about the legacy you will leave behind? Legacies are not just financial gifts; they are moral and spiritual gifts as well. Don't you want to leave a lasting legacy, one that generations to come will remember and cherish? If you are a regular supporter of or if you care about Teen Challenge of the Midlands, planned giving is a wonderful new opportunity for you to make a lasting impact!

Teen Challenge has recently established a Planned Giving Department, teaming up with the Assemblies of God Financial Services Group to offer Teen Challenge centers aid in the planned giving arena. AG Financial has available "clean" investments that will not invest in companies that profit from alcohol, tobacco, abortion, pornography, gambling and other vices that are in direct violation of God's desire for our lives.

We are happy to announce that these planned giving services are now available to you at no cost when you leave a 10% gift to a ministry! (This can be any ministry or denomination of your choice.) You will be able to set up individual gift annuities, charitable trusts, endowment funds, investments, personal savings accounts, real estate bargain sales, and wills. They even have a "Give it Away Twice" program where you can give to ministry while giving to your family as well. Through the use of the Planned Giving Department, you will have many options based on your own desires to **give more to ministry**, to get a **bigger tax break** in certain years, or to **leave it to your family** in a manner of your own choosing. In addition, your lawyer or account-

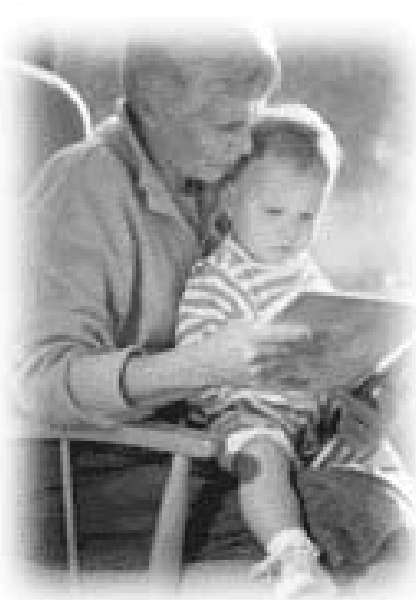
ant can easily examine any proposals before their implementation.

The Bible clearly instructs us to be good stewards of our lives. Consider the words of Jesus, "...store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Mat 6:20,21)" Not only will your gifts to Teen Challenge of the Midlands impact the men whose lives are changed through the program, but your gift will impact their parents, wives, children, and their children's children. Generations will pass thanking God for the men and women who made it possible for their father or grandfather to go through the discipleship program that set him free from drug or alcohol addiction and showed him that he could live in freedom through Jesus Christ.

If you'd like to speak with someone in regard to planned giving please contact Merv Roth, our Assistant for Community Relations at (515) 674-3713 ext. 256 or m.roth@tcmid.org. Merv can then arrange for the Financial Consultant from

Teen Challenge to contact you personally. This representative is available to meet with individual donors on a one-on-one basis for a free consultation and to help them set up their investments.

Please consider this opportunity to make a lasting impact on Teen Challenge of the Midlands not only now, but for generations to come.



CONTACT INFORMATION

You can reach our Intake Coordinator by email at: info@tcmid.org

Visit our website at: www.tcmid.org

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Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

In 1981, I was born in central Iowa. Growing up in a Christian home, I always knew of God but never actually knew Him or had a personal relationship with Him. I often felt awkward and out of place with no purpose in life. In time I lost hope of ever having a life filled with joy and peace. God directed me to Teen Challenge where I've found salvation through Jesus Christ.

My parents met at Bible college and were on fire for God. My family spent a lot of time involved with the church during my early adolescent years. We had lots of Christian friends and a great home. Life was great.

Life didn't stay that way very long. We moved to northern Minnesota where my dad had an affair. Things went downhill from there. It seemed as though the family gave up on God. Eventually my Mom got remarried, and everyone's life got back on track-except mine. My freshman year in high school I started smoking pot and drinking. I found my identity in drugs, but still hid it from my family. They had many clues, but seemed blinded by denial. I eventually started using meth, and my life really spun out of control. I left high school half way through my senior year and went to rehab. After that short stay I tried a geographical change by moving to Omaha, Nebraska. Things were better for a little while, but I still hadn't had enough. My drinking increased, and eventually I was using drugs again. I was ashamed, a liar, hopeless, depressed, and full of fear. I hated myself. I ended up leaving for Las Vegas with plans to die or get lucky, striking it rich. I was broke after two weeks but something kept me from taking my life. I now know "that something" was the Holy Spirit. I had seen Him work miracles in other lives, but I thought it was too late for me. I went back home, and tried rehab again. When I got out, I started drinking and using drugs within a week. I felt so depressed and ashamed that I took a handful of pills one day as I was in a drunken stupor. Thankfully my brother and his wife just happened



to come to check on me. I had to have my stomach pumped, and I was then sent to a psyche ward for the night. Within the following five months, I had been charged with public intoxication six times, and I had received my third DUI. After coming out of jail this last time I felt God's love came down on me for the first time. My dad had picked me up and was taking me to my mom's. He was playing Chris Rice's song, The Untitled Hymn. All I kept hearing were the words "Come to Jesus". Tears were streaming down my face, and it was then that I finally felt some hope. My dad mentioned Teen Challenge, and three weeks later I arrived here.

At Teen Challenge I gave it all up to God. I knew I couldn't do it on my own anymore, so I surrendered, and God has made me a new creation. I now have a relationship with God that I never thought was possible. I've been delivered from my addictions. I am filled with peace and joy. I'm growing everyday, living out God's will for my life. For the first time in a long time, I'm excited about my future. I am filled with a purpose, instead of living life without a cause. I know now that God helps me to stand up against any temptation I face (1 Corinthians 10:13). In coming here, I had no idea what to expect. I knew the program was biblical, but I just expected another rehab. I found out quickly that Teen Challenge is discipleship. I am now a follower of Jesus Christ. I now have the Holy Spirit guiding my steps. God has promised that if we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us (James 4:8). I felt unworthy and weak. God used my weakness and showed His strength by restoring me and giving me new life.

Teen Challenge has provided me with structure, knowledge, a place free from worldly temptations, a chance to learn true obedience, and most importantly, an environment of love. God has truly blessed the ministry of Teen Challenge of the Midlands.