



Teen Challenge Travels to the White House

In yet another example of God's great faithfulness, Executive Director Warren Hunsberger and his family met with President George W. Bush at the White House in July. President Bush has often mentioned how God blessed him through his visit to Teen Challenge of the Midlands while on the campaign trail. He saw firsthand the impact of Christ in the lives of men that society had

given up on, and it was Jesus in them that impacted him greatly. He extended an invitation to the Hunsbergers and gave them the phone number of one of his personal aids to try and set up the details of a visit. Because of the President's obviously busy schedule, plans did not come into play until just one day before the meeting. "If you can work it into your schedule," invited his secretary, "President Bush would love you to meet with him at the White House." The Hunsbergers definitely had no plans that were more important, and so they began to prepare. As they were in the Washington D.C. area on vacation, the Hunsbergers were camping in an RV park in College Park, Maryland. Imagine on July 3rd, nine people (three of whom are taller than 6'3") all trying to get ready to see the President of the United States of America



The Hunsberger Family with President Bush in the Oval Office

in a camping trailer! Things were definitely crazy, but they soon found themselves going through security at the gate of the White House. After getting checked in, the family made the walk up the drive to the West Wing of the White House, where they were greeted by the Marine guard. On a side note, many of the Hunsbergers needed a restroom break upon arrival, but it seems as though

even the White House is not beyond plumbing problems. They all made use of the Ladies Room! Soon, President Bush's secretary came to get them and led them to the Oval Office. President Bush stood in the doorway ushering all nine of them in, greeting them as they entered. His kind and "down to earth" demeanor quickly put everyone at ease and so began their visit. He showed the family around the

office, explaining some of the history and information about the décor. He also walked them outside and showed them the Rose Garden. They stayed about 20 minutes and before they left, Warren asked the President if they could pray with him. "The most important thing any American can do is to pray for me," he replied. They all gathered in a circle, clasped one another's hands, and prayed for him. Warren told him that the main reason his family was there, was to bless him and pray that God would continue to guide him and give him wisdom to lead our country through these tumultuous times. The visit was not only huge for the Hunsbergers, but also, they were able to touch President Bush with prayer and greetings from Teen Challenge of the Midlands. The whole visit is such an awesome example of how God is not only using Teen Challenge to reach into individual lives, but to also touch a nation. Praise the Lord!

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Construction Galore in Colfax

Many more changes have taken place at the Colfax Center since our last newsletter. Executive Director Warren Hunsberger explains, "Everything is dove-tailed. One project simply led to another."

First, there was an offer from a Des Moines couple to carpet the chapel. But, before any carpet could be laid, the water-damaged ceiling needed repaired, which then meant that the plumbing on the 2nd floor needed fixed. **This** was all connected to the Guest Room Project, in which all the guest rooms are being completely redecorated and furnished by different groups and individuals. The rooms are utilized regularly by families visiting students. Lori Cramer organized different groups from First Assembly of God in Des Moines, Iowa. Helen Jansen did several rooms and also brought help from First Assembly of God in Knoxville, Iowa. Another huge part of our "Guest Room Team," is Ron and Mary Hayes, who helped in several ways. "All of these people have been really instrumental in getting our guest rooms redone," says Gay Hunsberger, who is heading the project up. "We've got so much done, and we just have five rooms to go." If you are interested in helping, please contact Gay at the Colfax center.

Along with the guest rooms, a much-needed renovation was needed on the 2nd floor mechanical systems. Not only did the radiator valves need replacing, the shower room needed completely redone. "If you're ever in the area," invites Gay, "please stop by and see all that's been done." It is a brand-new floor.

After the 2nd floor project was underway, work continued in the chapel. A goal of this project was to provide more seating, as well as accommodate an expanded platform. Teen Challenge staff and students built a new platform wired with jacks for the new sound system purchased by "Speed the Light" a missions arm of the Assemblies of God Youth Department. The carpet was bought by a Des Moines couple and purchased at a discounted price from Dan Stalzer at Flooring Gallery in Des Moines. The pews were all removed and replaced with interlocking chairs donated by Parkview Assembly of God in Sheldon, Iowa. The new chairs provide 20 extra seats as well as more comfortable seating. The windows in the chapel were replaced by Capital Campaign funds. To finish everything off, the students stripped and refinished all the oak woodwork and then painted the walls. The end result is a beautiful new chapel!

Obviously, many changes have been occurring in Colfax, Iowa. Thank **YOU** for helping make it all possible.



Guestroom



Chapel

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SET FREE! -- Teen Challenge Student Testimony

My name is Richard. I have just recently come to the Re-entry Center from Teen Challenge of the Dakotas. I would like to tell you a little bit of my background, and what God has done for me over the last year.

When I came to Teen Challenge of the Dakotas, I was a wreck. I had given up on life, myself and to top it off, I was a drunk. I didn't know how to function without a drink in my hand or enough beer in me to drown a large horse. That was my life, and for a long time, that is what I settled for. Because of that, I hated myself and condemned myself for who I had become.

I came from a mother who loved and cared for me, that, I always knew. However in my relationship with my father, I didn't. When I was growing up, my dad really wasn't around that much. When he was around, he was always hard on me, and that drove me to strive to do better. When my sister died, my dad really changed. He told me once that it was my fault (I know now that it wasn't) and from then on, I don't ever remember my dad telling me he loved me or even hugging me. As I grew up, my dad got harder and harder on me; he was a drunk, too. He did sober up just after I turned 16, but his attitude didn't change. He told me I was still dumb and that I would never amount to anything.

Even as my hatred grew for my dad, I still tried to get his approval, which never came. With that, I tried drive myself to be the best mechanic I could be. When I was 18, I worked for U-Haul as a service mechanic. I made really good money for my age. When I graduated from high school, my dad said, "So, when are you going to get a real job?"



Here I was, just 19 years old, and making \$10 per hour plus benefits in 1992 with a lot of room for advancement. What do I do? I joined the Navy! All my life, I said I would never be my dad. Watch out what you say because you never know what God will use to get your attention. In the Navy, I drank and I drank hard. I was accepted for the first time in my life. God gave me a natural talent to work with my hands. But, my drinking soon got the best of me. It cost me my Navy career, my driver's license, and almost my life, many times. By the time I was 23, I had already been in and out of jail and rehab programs for five drunk-driving convictions. By the time I was 25, I was my father and worse. I had passed up in seven years, what took my dad 24 years to do. When I looked in the mirror, all I saw was my dad, and I hated myself. For the next three years, I tried to change, but could not do it. When I finally had enough, I called a friend and he got me into Teen Challenge.

Now, I'm a man of God. The Lord has totally rebuilt the relationship with my father; the father I wanted to die so I could kick the first pile of dirt on him is now a father I care about and talk to all the time. The Bible says that your children will be seven times worse than you were. Well, I was, and now I want to change that. My dad's father died from drinking. As a non-Christian, my father set the example for me and got sober first. When I have a wife and kids someday, they won't go through this because their husband and father is a man of God. You can break that family curse with God. Not only is my Heavenly Father proud of me, but so is my earthly father, and he tells me!

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Helping People Who Hurt

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**A Newly Decorated
Guestroom in Colfax**