

Teen Challenge Update

November 2005

Happy Thanksgiving From the Teen Challenge Family!



Clockwise from upper left corner: Re-Entry Students and Staff, Colfax Students and Staff, & Executive Director, Warren & Gay Hunsberger

CONTACT INFORMATION

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All in the Typical Week of a Teen Challenge Student

Weekdays start with chapel which includes worship and a message given by staff members, guests, or students. Lecture classes are taught by staff and guest teachers on subjects such as leadership, marriage, and finances. Students have study times in which they complete individualized lessons. We also offer construction training, reading enhancement classes, and our GED program. Students participate in the Christ-Life Solution and receive prayer ministry from staff. Students also spend a portion of their week developing skills through various work responsibilities.



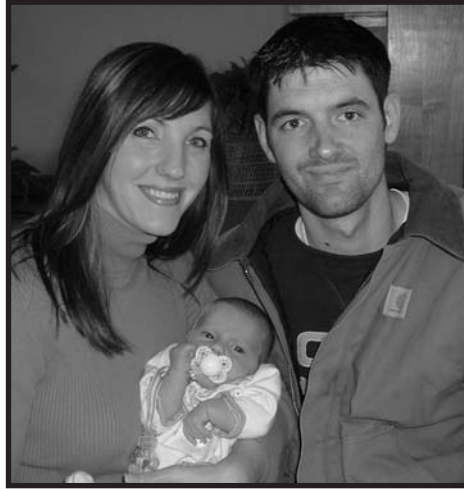
Martin Potter received his GED this September!

Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

God blessed me by giving me strong Christian parents who raised us in a home that was centered on Christ. I know that by giving us that foundation in the Lord, that is what made me the man I am today. As a child it was easy to see the love and commitment to the Lord that my father showed in his everyday walk. Throughout high school, I believed in Jesus as my savior. I can look back now though and know that the Lord was just waiting for me to give myself completely to Him. During high school, I was involved in practically every sport that I could be. Through this time, there were never really any struggles that made me rely fully on Christ. It wasn't that I didn't believe in God, but I wasn't putting Him first in my life. I know that this is what started things in the wrong direction. While looking at options for college, I was also looking into the military. At that time I received a full scholarship to Wentworth Military Academy where I would get my officers training and be able to play basketball. I remember my first couple of weeks, and the feelings I had, and I started to hate my decision to join the Military really QUICKLY! This is where my relationship with Christ or lack thereof, came into play.

I began to allow my surroundings and situations around me determine how I would live. I can see now that I was living in a world that was about me. I began to become a very angry person. There were times that I would go through days hating everything about where I was and what I was doing. I found myself around people I never thought I would be around, and found myself doing things I never thought I would do. My personal boundaries became looser with time. There was a constant battle in my heart, tearing at me. I know that my drug of choice was not the usual: it was anger. I lived off of it; it controlled most of my decisions. I can remember when friends would use my anger as entertainment and try to get me into situations where I would lose my temper and end up fighting. I would emotionally and physically hurt people because of the anger that I allowed to control me. I know that the only time I had real

peace was when I would sneak out and go to church. I would end up at the alter crying my eyes out, asking the Lord what I should do. The problem was that I knew what to do. I just wasn't doing it. After graduating and being commissioned as an officer in the Army, I ended up at Iowa State University. There I began working towards my construction engineering degree. Although my lifestyle changed drastically, I still was not putting the Lord first in my life.



Michael & Megan Hunsberger with new baby, Ellisene Marie (Ellie)

Somewhere during that time God got a hold of me. My desires and my life started to change. I desired a new way of life; I didn't want to continue wavering on the fence. I wanted to know what God had for me. Instead of the desire to be an engineer, I began to feel the call to ministry. That scared me at first, but I knew I would only be happy in God's will. I started working part time at Teen Challenge doing whatever I could. I loved being around the students of Teen Challenge and desired to be a part of that. During that time, God brought the most special woman I have ever met into my life, and we were married on June 19, 2004. I have been full time at Teen Challenge for the last few years, and my wife has now worked here for about a year and a half. Currently, I am the Construction Coordinator and also a student advisor. The newest blessing of our life is the birth of our first child, Ellisene Marie (Ellie). I cannot begin to explain the many other blessings that God has given us. I am extremely happy to be in the Teen Challenge ministry and unless God calls us elsewhere, we will be here for a long time. Being able to work for one of the men that I respect the most in my life is incredible. Seeing God change these guys' lives, is not a JOB to me! I don't hate getting up for work. I am excited about the vision that God has for this place and that I am able to be a part of it. I cannot think of better people to be around or a better place to raise our daughter.