



# Oasis

A Publication of the Teen Challenge Wives' Ministry



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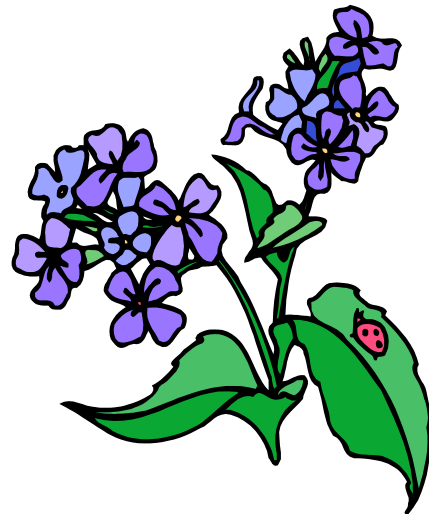
*"...I will make a way in the desert, and streams in the wasteland..." Isaiah 43:19*

## Wives' Weekend

The last Wives' Weekend was held on the weekend of July 11th-13th. It was a great time of ministry and fellowship with Norm and Kathy Wenig doing most of the teaching sessions.

Angie Allen is currently one of the Teen Challenge wives who participated in the weekend. She says, "I was glad my husband and I could participate in some of the weekend together. I also liked being in the womens' small groups. We've all gone through similar things. Maybe I helped some of them—I know they helped me. I was so filled with the Spirit when I got home. My husband used to be an idol in my life. Since he's been at Teen Challenge I've gotten closer to Christ than I've ever been before."

The next Wives' Weekend will be held during the weekend of October 17-19th. Please RSVP by October 1st. If you have any questions please call Jennifer at (515) 674-3713.



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*Your strength, my weakness—here they always meet.*

*When I lay down my burden at Your feet:*

*The things that seem to crush will in the end,*

*Be seen as the rungs on which I did ascend!*

*Thank You, Lord.*

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## Testimony of Encouragement

I was raised in a small town in north central Iowa. My family attended church in our town. We went to church every Sunday, but I didn't enjoy it. I just went because my parents made me go. I had a very happy, healthy home. My parents were very loving and supportive. The only real tragedy was when my brother was killed by a semi truck at the young age of 8. I was 10 years old at the time. My parents dealt with it in a healthy way so that our family was able to stay together and not have life long effects.

I went to college at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa to become a teacher. I really enjoyed the college life and made many mistakes during those years, but the Lord faithfully protected me. I always felt like there was more of the Lord that I was missing and searching for. I went on missions trips and was always intrigued by speakers that would come to chapel and would preach on missions. God was preparing me for something, but I didn't know

what it was. After I graduated from college I got a teaching job in Johnston, Iowa (right outside of Des Moines) and decided it was time to find a different church. With a college friend visiting, we decided to look up churches in the phone book and found a church that was just down the street. We went and I finally under-

***“We were newlyweds and we had what I thought was ‘the perfect relationship.’ In reality, John was struggling with his ‘secret sin’ and I was very focused on my needs.”***

stood what it meant to have a personal relationship with the Lord. It was there I met my future husband, John Scheneman. He was the nicest, friendliest guy I had ever met. I thought of him as a great friend for a long time until God developed our friendship into a romantic relationship. I finally realized God was preparing me to be a Pastor's wife.

Right when we started dating John confessed to me that he had struggled with “looking

at women lustfully.” Not understanding what that meant I prayed for him and assumed he had overcome this and everything would be fine once we got married.

John proposed that February and we were married August 3, 1996 and moved to Springfield, Mo. There, John finished his last year of Bible College and I taught at a small school outside of Springfield. We were newlyweds and we had what I thought was “the perfect relationship.” In reality, John was struggling with his “secret sin” and I was very focused on my needs. After John graduated from Bible College we got our first pastoring position in Mason City, Iowa as youth pastors. Not understanding the pressures of ministry and my husband's need to “do everything perfect” I thought everything was “going fine.” Our son was born about a year later in 1998 and our daughter in 2001. There were a few signs that my husband was still struggling

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with lust but I always just

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brushed it off and thought there was no problem.

Right after our daughter was born John came home and confessed that he was still struggling with lust and pornography. He confessed everything to me and told me he wanted to overcome his addiction and finally be free of it. I was devastated by the lies and deception. I couldn't believe that "my husband" could do these things, but I thought now that he had confessed it and wanted to overcome, everything would be fine. But, it was not an easy process. I had feelings that I had never felt before. I had never experienced anger, fear, confusion, and lack of control like I did in the months following. I had no idea how to handle these intense feelings. I thought that if I did certain things John wouldn't have to lust after other women. I have always liked to help people and "fix things" so I thought I could fix this situation also. I thought going to a counselor would "fun" and it would make the situation all better. Instead we learned it was very hard to find a good Christian counselor that had

the same values as we did. I also learned quickly that I could not fix or control this situation. I really had to give everything over to the Lord and learn that I could not just "fix the problem." It was about my husband dealing with his issues and being free of them. I could support him and be there for him, but it was up to him to be free. He had needed to set up boundaries and take the



*The Scheneman family*

steps needed for living in purity. I did pray and ask God to help me change things in me as well. God revealed to me some issues I had that needed to be changed after reading the book, "The Power of a Praying Wife". God showed me that I needed to submit more to John, not be so concerned about my needs and let him be the leader of our household.

It took many steps for us to restore and rebuild our marriage. It has definitely not been an easy process, but is definitely worth it with John living in purity today. God tells us that He hates divorce. It is important that we do whatever it takes to make our marriages work. He is faithful and brought John and I through many rough times and will be faithful to help us with whatever may come in our future.

*—Dawn Scheneman*

John Scheneman is the new director of our Re-entry Center in Omaha, and his wife, Dawn, is the new Wives' Ministry Assistant.



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When you change your thinking you can change your life.  
Here's how:

By putting God first in my life & relying on Him to help me...

When I change my thinking, I change my beliefs,  
When I change my beliefs, I change my expectations,  
When I change my expectations, I change my attitude,  
When I change my attitude, I change my behavior,  
When I change my behavior, I change my performance,  
When I change my performance, I change my life.