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Helping People Who Hurt

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HE is Risen! Happy Easter from Teen Challenge of the Midlands!

Celebrate New Life in Christ!

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade,” 1 Peter 1:3-4. At Teen Challenge, we are blessed to witness the transformation that the Lord brings about in our students lives. Your faithful support makes this possible! Thank you for standing with us as we bring Christ’s hope to the hurting!



(L-R) Anthony, David, Don, Kenny

I came into Teen Challenge not caring about life, and with no will to live. Now that I have experienced life from the Lord, I have a love for life, and a will to live unlike I have ever known. Thank you Teen Challenge and Jesus Christ!
- Anthony

Before I came to Teen Challenge, I wasn’t just a drunk, I was lost and depressed. I knew I wasn’t the husband or father I could have been, and hated myself for what I had become. Through Teen Challenge, I was given the opportunity to realize God’s grace and love for me! I learned how much God loves me, how to truly live, and accept God’s forgiveness of my past. Now I can look to God every day so I can make the best of the present, to brighten the past of tomorrow.
- David

Through Teen Challenge, the Lord has revitalized my relationship with Him. Teen Challenge has provided an atmosphere where I’ve been able to understand God’s love and grace towards me as a son and an heir. He’s healing broken relationships between my family and I, and He’s also healing my broken heart. The Lord is teaching me how to be a godly man so that I can be a good dad to my son, and accomplish all that He’s called me to do on this earth. I was hopeless and truly without any real direction in my life. I now have the hope that as long as I follow Him, I will always have a good and true direction to go in.
- Don

Before coming to Teen Challenge, I was selfish, angry and out of control physically and emotionally. I was attending church, but struggled to make the connection between my head and my heart. Submitting to God’s will, and the structured curriculum offered at Teen Challenge has given me hope at times that seem like hopeless situations. “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy,” 1 Peter 4:12.
- Kenny

Omaha Vehicle Donation Program

The Vehicle Donation Program continues to be a success at our Omaha Re-Entry Center, and we are so grateful to all who have donated! God took our dream of a thriving program, and He has continued to amaze us. In 2010, there were a couple of days that the center brought in 4 cars each day. God is so good! He has definitely prospered this program, and the future looks bright. Don't forget to tell your neighbors, co-workers, friends and family how they can help impact God's Kingdom! We appreciate you spreading the word about the Vehicle Donation Program in Omaha, as well as our program in Des Moines!



Upcoming Events

The Pella Women's Home is gearing up for spring! Tulip Time in Pella is right around the corner on May 4th-7th. You will find the Teen Challenge men and women at the West Market Park throughout the weekend selling hand carved crosses, homemade granola, and ice cream. Also, the Pella Women's Home will have our Biannual Garage Sale from May 14th-16th at the Pella Memorial Building. We are accepting tax-deductible donations at this time for the sale. Please contact Candace DuRegger at c.duregger@tcmid.org, or call (641)628-2808.

Would you like to enjoy a delicious dinner while supporting Teen Challenge of the Midlands? Mark your calendars now! Our second annual Spring Benefit Dinner will be Friday, May 20th at our Colfax center. We raised almost \$8000.00 last year for our ministry, and we hope to bring in even more this year. This event sold out in 2010, so if you are planning to attend, reserve your place now! For more information, or to order tickets, please contact Libby Hunsberger at (515)674-3713 ext. 254, or at l.hunsberger@tcmid.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Happy Easter!

Spring is finally here, and Easter is not far behind. At Easter, our thoughts are turned towards Christ's Resurrection, family and our own life. Jesus' mother and friends gathered at the tomb where He was buried, but were asked by the angels: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!" Luke 24:5-6. What exciting news to hear that your loved one, the Messiah was not dead, but alive!

At Teen Challenge, these are the miracles that we see from our students; lives that were spiritually dead have now been resurrected by the power of God. Our students are now experiencing Christ's love, and a new life in Him. Their family and friends are also excited to see and hear about the miracle of a brand new creation in their loved one. We pray that you have a blessed Easter and that as you celebrate; you too experience Jesus' love.

A Testimony of Hope

I was raised in Pella, Iowa by Christian parents who felt it was important for their children to have a Christian education. I went to church, Sunday school and youth group. I did all the "right" things that I thought would get me a ticket to heaven.

After I graduated from high school, I began to feel a void in my life. I wasn't really sure what that was all about. I couldn't figure out what the void was, and what it needed to be filled with. I had done all the right things, and yet there was still emptiness. So, I began to fill the void with alcohol. I spent a few years running from God with alcohol and partying. Finally, one day I met God on a gravel road. I told Him that I needed to make a decision about which direction my life was going. I knew that He was the answer, but I wasn't sure that I was going to choose Him. Then I felt His presence come into the car with me. I felt His arms of forgiveness around me, and I knew that I was going to be okay.



Mary Roozeboom, Pella Staff

After that decision, I told God He could use my life any way that He wanted. Put your seatbelt on if you make that statement to God! He will take you at your word. It has been an amazing adventure with Him. He has taken me on mission trips, allowed me the privilege of helping to start the Teens Encounter Christ weekends and other various ministry opportunities.

A few years down the road, I felt that I was getting too comfortable with my life, and I asked God to take me out of my comfort zone. He led me to Mount Vernon, Iowa where I managed Brackett House Bed and Breakfast for two years. I was really enjoying

my job there, and then the Pella Teen Challenge Director, Candace DuRegger, sent me an email...

In January, 2010 she told me of a staff position that was open at Teen Challenge. Sweet! Just what I have always wanted to do; Christian women's ministry and in Pella, Iowa! I prayed, and even though this was what I wanted to do, I did not feel at peace with accepting the position. After that, I became restless and I really wanted to be back in the Pella area doing ministry. I had been offered a part-time position at Riverside Community Church in Knoxville, Iowa. Now, I had to find a full-time job to go along with that position.

I prayed. I applied for jobs. I prayed. I didn't get a job. I prayed and pleaded with God for months to find me a job back in Pella. No answer (or WAIT was the answer!), I prayed some more. And then Candace sent me an email...

Another position was open, and Candace and others felt that I was the one for the job. I prayed, and felt at peace with knowing that God was saying, "Now!" I accepted the position, and have been at Teen Challenge since November 15, 2010, and I love it. I love the second chance that Teen Challenge offers women. I love watching them grow in their journeys with Christ.

As I look back, I know that God needed me to wait a little while longer before coming back to Pella. He taught me more things about myself and in that teaching prepared me more for what He was calling me to do. I look forward to many years of walking alongside God in ministry.