

# Teen Challenge Update

Teen Challenge of Nebraska

May 2011

## A Heart for the Re-Entry Center

The Teen Challenge Re-Entry Center has been incredibly blessed with a beautiful, historic home in Omaha. The huge front porch is something the students enjoy Spring, Summer and Fall. The indoor woodwork and detail is loved by every visitor. The property is especially beautiful now with everything in bloom and bright green.

Keeping this house beautiful keeps our faith up and us on our toes. God always provides and His people are so faithful to hear His voice and obey. We have been blown away at the creative ways God has blessed our Re-Entry Center so far this year.

If you have ever been in the Center's dining room, you have seen the huge, wood trimmed windows, but they have always been bare. A precious couple touring the house noticed the bare windows and made curtains for the center! The window treatments are beautiful, but what is even better is when people allow God to work through them.

Our Executive Director received a phone call recently letting us know that a local furniture store was donating furniture to the center for the living room area! Beautiful furniture for the students and visitors to enjoy. It's awesome when God sees the smallest details and puts it all together.

One of our local churches donated a few truck loads of mulch for our property recently and it looks amazing. We are so appreciative of God's blessing's and the people that make it all possible.

Our desire is to be able to keep this amazing piece of property that God has entrusted us with, looking fabulous and comfortable for the men. "So I say to you; ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Luke 11:9-10



He has opened the door for so many blessings and new friendships. Thank you to all those who have listened and obeyed God's voice. We thank God for all of you everyday!

### Prayer Request

Thank you for always praying for and encouraging our students, we covet every prayer! One of our greatest needs right now is jobs for the students. Please pray that each student would seek God's will and move into a position soon. We know that nothing is too difficult for Him.

## A Life Restored

My life started out in a loving Christian home. When I was about seven years old, my dad got out of the United States Air Force to go to seminary school to become an Assemblies of God pastor. When my dad finished school, he got his first job in Minnesota, so we moved from Louisiana, where our family is to Minnesota. By this time I was in fifth grade and had lived in six states all across the country. My family was great and very tight.

When I was in seventh grade, my family moved again to another church in Minnesota. It was a good move, but over the next few years, the business and responsibilities of the church took quality time away from my father and me. As a young boy, I loved my dad so much and wanted nothing more than to make my dad proud of me. This is where my life began to shift. I loved God with all my heart and served in many different roles in the church from the worship team to anything that needed to be done. I prayed daily, was filled with the spirit, wanted nothing more than to be in church and serve. Things were great, or so I thought. Everything looked good from the outside, but I never read the Living Word of God. So every time something happened in my life that either was just a simple let down or a terrible incident, I fell the wrong way and lies began to build up in my mind. These lies drove me to think less of myself and think no one really cared about or loved me. These lies even drove me to completely separate myself from everyone, including my family, to the point where I didn't trust anyone.

I graduated from high school, went into the United States Air Force, and became a crew chief on the U-2 dragon lady. I was very successful in my training and succeeded above others, which I attribute to the grace of God. As time went on, I only got worse. I began to get involved with pornography, sex and even strip clubs. This began to drain my life and cause more guilt, shame, condemnation and lies to develop in my life. I was angry at myself and at the world, and in my anger had pushed everyone who loved me away. My lifestyle was a rapid downward spiral to sin, condemnation, anger, depression, and loneliness.

After getting out of the Air Force, I returned to bro-

ken relationships because of the lifestyle I was living. The relationship I had enjoyed with my dad was no longer there and my fiancée broke off our engagement. I lost all hope and had no care for life, self or others and I felt that there was something missing in my life. I wanted to change but didn't know how or if it was even possible. After being caught in a promiscuous relationship and hurting my dad, family and best friend of 11 years, I was led to Teen Challenge reluctantly.



Mike, Re-Entry student

Once I was in Teen Challenge, God began to speak truth into me and replace lies that had filled my life. One day God spoke to me and compared me to Samuel as a little boy serving under Eli. In first Samuel chapter three, Samuel was sleeping next to the Ark of the Covenant with his whole life devoted to God. Then God called him and he thought it was Eli, so he ran to Eli three times. Then in verse seven it tells us that even though Samuel loved God and devoted his life to God, he did not know God because "the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him." God was telling me that even though

I loved Him, served Him and experienced Him, I never knew God because I never read the word of God.

I began to read the Word of God on a daily basis and seek God in every way. I not only served and loved God more, but began to know Him intimately and develop a personal relationship with God my Father. In doing so, my life has been restored in every way. I have complete peace; He has restored relationships, making the bond with my dad stronger than ever. After six years I even got my drivers license back.

God has become the center and drive of my life and I no longer care about others approval but God's. I no longer have a void or live a life of sin, but a life of purity and righteousness in Christ. I no longer run to sin but to the foot of the cross. I give all the credit to God for my new life and praise God I now have a hope and a future.

I also really want to thank Teen Challenge and its supporters in prayers; time and money because it was a key instrument that God used to grab hold of me and change my life. Praise God. I can only get more excited for what's next! I am finally able to say I am ready God!

### CONTACT INFORMATION

You can reach Admissions by email at: [s.reddish@tcmid.org](mailto:s.reddish@tcmid.org)  
Visit our website at: [www.tcmid.org](http://www.tcmid.org)

You can reach our other Midlands centers at:

Teen Challenge Admission and Crisis Center  
1709 10th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
515.282.5249

Colfax Training Center  
900 N. League Rd.  
PO Box 185  
Colfax, IA 50054  
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Pella Women's Home  
714 Independence St.  
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