

Teen Challenge Update

Colfax Training Center

September, 2011

2011 Annual Golf Marathon

Our 2011 Annual Golf Marathon has ended, but we have some great memories to carry us to next year's marathon. It was a gorgeous day at Willow Creek and the Teen Challenge Ministry was incredibly blessed again this year!

It started as an early morning with a live radio remote with Van on location and a devotion to send our golfers off. It was a warm morning with a forecast for high temperatures, but God blessed us with some cool breezes. We are so grateful to Willow Creek for the use of their course again this year, it is beautiful and such a pleasure to work with them.

Iowa Governor, Terry Brandstad speaks at the Valley Bank Annual Teen Challenge Golf Marathon Banquet



Willy, Re-Entry Student

The students, golfers and staff came in for some barbecue at lunch and to swap golf stories. Everyone was enjoying themselves and raising money for the ministry! The day continued on blessed and we ended with a banquet where the Governor of Iowa came and spoke. Governor Brandstad is a longtime supporter of Teen Challenge and we were so appreciative that he came to speak to us. We had wonderful dinner and great fellowship to close the day. Praise the Lord for His favor and blessings!

We had such an incredible response to this year's golf marathon. Thank you to everyone who supported a golfer or just gave! We appreciate those of you who prayed for this event and who are constantly holding us up in prayer. We are already looking forward to next year!

A Bright Future

The beginning of my story is not an uncommon one but it's the end that is unique. For the last 30 years I was a functioning alcoholic. I started drinking in high school just to have some fun, after a while it seemed that I had to drink to have fun. I went off to college for no particular reason except to party.

When my mom and stepfather got divorced the money stopped coming so I quit school and had to go to work. I went back to my hometown and started working on the neighbors dairy, by this time I was 21 and was at the bar every night after work. This went on for years with seemingly no ill effects.

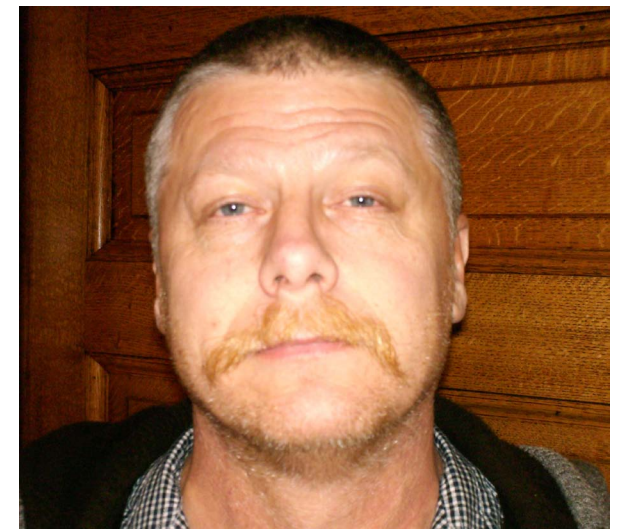
I got married when I was 25 years old to a girl from my hometown. We moved out to a farm in Odessa Washington. Things were good for a while and then I got bored so started going out to the bars again. We had our son Easton when I was 30 years old and I was divorced before he was two. The loss of my son in my everyday life was devastating to me.

I eventually ended up getting a DUI and was required to attend an outpatient rehab program. It wasn't for me so I quit going to the meetings. The judge didn't see it my way so he put me in jail time and time again. Finally after spending 30 days at a time in and out of jail for over 10 years, I was off probation. By this time I was in a cycle of doing fine and not drinking too much until I got comfortable with what I was doing and falling back into drinking heavily and so I would self-destruct, lose a job or ruin the relationship. Eventually in 2009 I was pulled over for my second DUI, I decided instead of trying to do the treatment and probation that I would just spend the year in jail. After three months my sister Molly contacted me and said she had some information on of place that might be able to help me. I received the packet in the mail from Teen Challenge. After reading it I thought she was crazy because I would spend a year in jail and then spend another year in a facility in the middle of Iowa,

not to mention it was a faith-based facility. After I spoke with the intake coordinator at Teen Challenge he prayed for me over the phone and I made my decision to give it a try.

I was released from jail and two days later I was in Colfax Iowa 2500 miles from home with 30 other guys I didn't know. What a shock, soon after entering Teen Challenge I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and my life hasn't been the same since.

What a wild ride this has been for someone to enter the program to just stop drinking the have it turn out to be so much more than that. I have built a strong foundation of faith, and am continually refining my relationship with God. I have learned not to rely on my own understanding, because it got me nowhere. As long as I stay in God's will I know He will continue to bless me. My life now has a bright future thanks to Jesus Christ. God bless all of you.



Bill, Re-Entry Student

CONTACT INFORMATION

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You can reach our other Midlands centers at:

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