



TEEN CHALLENGE CINCINNATI

The Faith-Based Solution for the Drug Epidemic

God Truly Changed Me

by Steve Sherrick

February 2013



Steve Sherrick

I walked through the doors of Teen Challenge Cincinnati for the first time in 1991. I was a man who was broken, beaten and destroyed by addiction. I remember the feelings of helplessness and felt like a complete failure, to the point where I was sick and tired of being sick and tired. My using started quite innocently, but quickly led to addiction and addict behavior. I was initially prescribed narcotics by a Medical Doctor for legitimate migraine headaches. I began to enjoy the way the narcotics made me feel. They took away all the pain, not only physically, but emotionally as well. After a period of years using and eventually abusing narcotics, I was in full blown addiction. I believed I needed them to feel “normal” as well as not to get sick from withdrawal. I eventually ended up “Doctor Shopping”, getting multiple prescriptions from as many as 14 doctors. I no longer used to control physical pain, but used them to numb the emotional pain that was deep inside me. Feelings of despair, guilt, shame, hurt and low self-esteem overwhelmed me. I was convinced that my life was a failure and I was worth nothing. Not even worth living.

Eventually, I stole prescription pads from the different doctors’ offices and began to write my own prescriptions, as well as calling pharmacies impersonating a doctor to get the drugs my body so desperately craved. Finally, one pharmacy became suspicious of the amount of drugs I was receiving and called the police which resulted in an investigation of multiple crimes. At that point, I lost everything that was important to me. My family suffered as a result, my parents were devastated and I had 2 little boys that I was unable to be a father to because I was always under the influence. Drugs had become my priority and I was willing to do anything to get them.

I received a call from a detective that said he was aware of what I had been doing, and wanted to talk to me about it. At that point, I was scared to death that I was going to end up in prison. I was charged with 2 fourth degree felonies of “Illegal processing of drug documents” that carried a prison term of 3 years if convicted. I had pled guilty and allowed “treatment in lieu of conviction” and placed on 3 years’ probation. I attended a treatment program, however quickly failed at staying clean. My probation was violated and I was ordered back to court.

I had heard of this program in Cincinnati called “Teen Challenge” which claimed a high success rate, and which was based on Christian principles. As I went through the program, *I began to feel a peace that did pass all understanding. I experienced forgiveness and came to believe that God actually did have a purpose for my life. God truly changed me at Cincinnati Teen Challenge.*

Since graduating from the program, I became a staff member at the TC Ranch for awhile and earned a B.S in Human Services, and a Master’s degree in Criminal Justice. I am also a licensed chemical dependency counselor in the state of Ohio. This would not have been possible without the help of Teen Challenge Cincinnati who loved me and taught me how to love others. I can never repay those who served at the Ranch for the help, encouragement and new life they have given me.

Editor's Note – Steve has accepted a position at Lansing Teen Challenge as the Director of Clinical Services.

New Roof for Administrative Building

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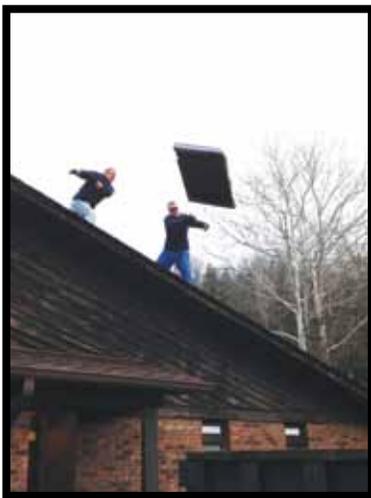
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Thank you to all who responded to our need for a new roof over the Administration Building! The majority of the work was performed by TCC students and Alumni. The leaks were so bad we had to replace 55 sheets of 4x8! The days to work were short and we had to work around the rain, but it was all accomplished in excellence.

Thank you Duane Brandstetters of KangaRoof for coming to the rescue when our weather window closed in!



Volunteer Needs:

Local Churches are involved in our ministry in a variety of ways...
Serving (not cooking) the food at a monthly Family Night dinner.
Preparing a meal and serving it to our students.
Praying for monthly prayer requests from the students.



*New Staff member – Daro Lomboy
Daro came to us via our relationship with City On A Hill Church. He is a Cincy native and enjoys playing bass guitar. Daro desires to make a Kingdom impact by being a servant leader. He keeps busy as a Project Mgr with Secured Roofing and as a network marketing associate with EvolvHealth. Daro lives on site in our staff housing.*



We celebrate with Craig and Tess Aven who were married on January 25.

Who Are We?

Located on 165 acres of beautiful countryside in Milford, Teen Challenge Cincinnati is a mission of hope, offering a 7 -12 month residential treatment program for men ages 18-35 dealing with the issues of drug and alcohol addictions.

Mission Statement

Evangelize people who have life controlling problems and initiate the discipleship process to the point where the student can function as a Christian in society applying spiritually motivated biblical principles to relationships in the family, local church, chosen vocation and the community. Teen Challenge endeavors to help people become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well and spiritually alive.



To hear more testimonies, watch videos, find information and donate easily and safely, go to www.TeenChallengeCincinnati.org

The Good Report!

Travis Periman (1999) will be celebrating his 13th wedding anniversary this year! He is employed by Cincinnati Laser as a full-time, 3rd shift welder. Ever since leaving Teen Challenge he has been involved at Rivertree Church in Milford working with their youth and for the past 4 years has served as their part-time Youth Pastor with the Revolution Ministry. He also is currently working on writing his testimony as a book! Travis wants to encourage others that, "Persistently pursuing the Kingdom is what brings about God's plans for your life!"

Jim Davenport - "I was reading my daily devotionals and God told me He knew my problems and help was on the way. Within 2 weeks I had 6 job calls. I'm now employed! Thank you, TC for praying for me!"



Craig Aven (2009) came out with his new worship CD "Satisfied in You" in December of 2012.

Brandon Neeley (2012) was allowed some pass time so we stayed at a hotel in Blue Ash, and he was able to spend some quality time with his son, Hunter...and with me! We had a blast. The changes I'm seeing in Brandon are amazing! The conversations we had about the things that are happening at TC, and within him, were simply unbelievable. GOD IS SO GOOD! The work you all are doing at TC is phenomenal, and I thank you all with all my heart. TC is truly an answer to this mother's prayer. I know that God is just starting a work in Brandon, and it's very exciting.

Chad Hagedorn (2012) enrolled and began majoring in Business Administration at Cincinnati Christian College, Cincinnati on January 14, 2013.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU... Alumni of Teen Challenge (grads and non grads) ... Please call us with an update on how you are doing and your contact information.



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We desperately need vehicles in good working condition so the graduates or staff have transportation for work.

Raise the Awareness and become a table sponsor at our

Fund Raiser/
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Breakfast

Friday, May 17
at Kenwood
Country Club.

For more info contact us at
EMail@TeenChallengeCincinnati.org

Visa, Mastercard, Discover and PayPal
accepted for donations by phone or online.



www.TeenChallengeCincinnati.org

Monitor current events, listen to chapel speakers, testimonies and direct others to it who are in need,
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