



Teen Challenge Cincinnati Women's Home Love Letter

*For those who have a heart to
Rescue women from their distress and their children-
from death*



Fall 2014

Recognizing Truth

by Tara Balke



Tara Balke

Hello, my name is Tara Balke. I started my journey with Christ in 2012.

My relationship with Jesus has been an amazing journey. He has brought much healing to past wounds and addictions. He has truly redeemed a worthless life that was nothing but destruction and misery. He has taught me how to love, forgive and to serve.

Teen Challenge Cincinnati impacted me because it was the first time that I stepped out of daily, worldly living and was in a place of intentional discipleship for a long period of time. This was essential when trying to come off of drugs. I was so influenced by the world around me. This gave me a chance to slow down, receive healing and focus on building a strong relationship with Jesus. It was different from rehab because the material taught was not how to just stay drug-free but how to actually have a heart change.

When I was young, I struggled severely with depression. During high school I changed a lot and began to care about how I looked. This attracted new friends along with boyfriends. I began to "party" on weekends and binge drink. I was introduced to marijuana and was instantly hooked. I was still unhappy and discontent. Marijuana satisfied me for some time but I was still missing something. I was introduced to narcotics; again I felt I had found what my life was missing. I never gave a thought to being addicted. One day when I had no drugs I became seriously ill. I realized I was in bigger trouble than I thought. I couldn't stand being sick. I liked the way narcotics made me feel. I began exhausting my resources and stealing from my family, my friends, and my church. I sold everything I could including my body to support my addiction. I was soon found out. After a few tries in a few different rehabs and working the 12 step programs I went back to drugs.

Finally narcotics became so expensive and scarce that I made the switch to heroin. I burned all my bridges. I went and lived with my drug dealer in hotels around Cincinnati selling drugs.

I wanted a way out and I entered into Teen Challenge Cincinnati. I spent 6 months getting to know Jesus and building my relationship with him. I recognized truth when I heard it and I was so desperate and knew I had no other choice. The truth that had the most impact on me when I was at Teen Challenge Cincinnati was that I was able to experience the love of Christ through others. I learned firsthand that God is real, He is alive and active. I was able to develop prayerful habits and how to be in the word of God.

The hardest and most rewarding thing I've learned about following Jesus is that I have to lose my life. I look back and think, "What do I have to lose?" and really, not a whole lot. Now I get the pleasure of counting even the good things I had (or thought I had) as lost for the sake of one man and He is considered worthy!

-Tara continues her journey now as part of Gladstone Community, a community of intentional believers.

Cooking Up Red Raspberry Preserves!



The Women's Home students pick some of our organically grown red raspberries from TCC Berry Farm and turn them into homemade preserves.



Alumni Meetings

Every Monday, 6:30-8:00 pm
Teen Challenge Men's Ranch Cafeteria.
(1466 US Highway 50, Milford Ohio 45150)



The Women's Home Founder, George Martin shares with the ladies at a weekly Bible study over coffee.

Note from the Director:

Family Night is a gathering of TCC family, current students and their families, staff, volunteers, alumni. Young and old, all together to celebrate with live worship, lightening testimonies by students and alumni, and a word from the Executive Director about life at TCC. We share a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Emly and the students from the Ranch. It is served to us by a different local church each month. My favorite part is visiting with restored families and holding those babies whose futures I have sown into. Please join us the first Friday of every month at 6:30 pm. Call 248-0452 for reservations.

-Marty Martin

NEEDS:

**Gas gift cards to fill the van & grocery gift cards to stock the kitchen.
Host a fundraising event to sponsor a student for a month for \$900.**

Great is our Lord, and of great power; His understanding is infinite. -Psalm 147:5

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