



TEEN CHALLENGE CINCINNATI

The Proven Cure For The Drug Epidemic

www.teenchallengecincinnati.org

FALL 2007

Thirsting for God!

James Braunheim

Many years have passed since I was first introduced in the mid '70's to Teen Challenge on Vine Street in downtown Cincinnati. My mother would often take food and clothing there and occasionally volunteered. Like the prodigal son, I wandered into rebellion and during my teen years, found myself empty inside and starved for attention. Focusing on athletics and craving acceptance from my peers, I eventually traded my Christian upbringing for the pleasures of life. Before I knew what hit me, I was 21, looking for some fun and was in and out of jail and addicted to drugs, alcohol and sex.

My life revolved around anything that fed my thirst for sin. My wants were all I cared about. Eventually, getting wasted wasn't even fun anymore and I was causing everyone around me pain, havoc, sleepless nights and a heavy burden on my family. I saw many of my "friends" succumb to addiction as I attended a number of their funerals. By this time I wanted to die myself.

While in jail for drunken driving, I sobered up enough to find myself sick of all of it. I entered into Teen Challenge but was released after 3 weeks due to discipline issues. At 23 years of age I felt like I had 1000 knives in my back. Arrested and charged with drunken driving and a lot of jail time, somehow I got back into Teen Challenge. After spending almost 2 years at the Ranch, Christ transformed my life.. It took a long time to shed the skins of sin, but the discipline and life skills that were taught allowed me to enter college at University of Cincinnati.

Committed to succeed, I started to get away from my support system which is crucial for my recovery. My disease was "sin" which only fueled my selfishness to the point that I was again physically and mentally addicted to the world. I met my wife during this time and soon she was pregnant. I flunked out of school, had no direction for my life and put God on the back shelf. Once again in trouble with the law, my wife took my daughter and left me and now I was considering suicide. I entered Teen Challenge for a 3rd time. This time I allowed the Lord to have my whole being. I completed the

program and in time was asked to serve as a staff member. At 28 years of age, I had spent 7 years of my life at the Ranch.

As a student, I learned what prayer was all about. It is speaking the same thing that God says about me. Through prayer and supplication, six years later I was reunited with my wife and daughter. My wife and daughter are well and we have a great future ahead of us. I am blessed with a great job managing properties for a major oil company across North America. I love being a servant for Him, letting my actions speak for my words. Thank God Teen Challenge was there to provide a safe haven where I could be taught the word of God and grow in it. I urge everyone to visit, donate or volunteer at the Ranch. It makes a difference and blessed my life. I also want to publicly thank my parents for praying for me and helping me when I couldn't help myself.



**Pictured with James is his wife
Teresa and daughter Sundai**

For he satisfies
the thirsty and fills
the hungry with
good things. (Psalm
107:9)

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Teen Challenge Planning Women's Maternity Home

Teen Challenge Cincinnati is in the final stages of establishing a women's maternity home. All the preliminary work of inspections, zoning approval, prayer, staffing and waiting has been completed. We are in the financial stage of seeking provision that would both found and secure the successful operations. The purpose of the women's home is to break the cycle of bondage (emotional, physical and spiritual) in women and ultimately their children through the discipleship process.



Volunteer Spotlight - Jody and Otto Liske



Jody has faithfully volunteered in our kitchen for 5 years now. She comes twice a week to show the young men highly valued (by both staff and students!) cooking skills and uses the opportunity more importantly to influence and disciple the young men. She and her husband Otto have successfully raised 3



boys and to be at the Ranch is a natural extension of their God given parenting abilities. Those men who have spent time with Jody consider it a significant part of their discipleship experience at the Ranch. She always considers it a blessing to come and serve. Otto is retired from the Cincinnati Public School system and volunteers his time doing physical and recreational therapy with the men. He comes because he sees (as witnessed at Family Nights) the restorative work in men's lives and their families and as he says, "I want to be part of that restoration process". Otto is encouraged by coming to the Ranch because there is not a spirit of oppression but hope.



**Visa/Mastercard
accepted for
donations**

Did You Know

Teen Challenge rents their gymnasium for sporting events (Volleyball, Basketball) For more information call Patti at 248-0452 x104

Get Connected Online @ www.teenchallengecincinnati.org

Check out our informative and dynamic web site! www.teenchallengecincinnati.org Monitor current events, **Listen to chapel speakers, testimonies and** direct others to it who are in need, email, and donate easily and securely online! Would you like to also get this newsletter electronically? What an opportunity to "forward" the work of the Ranch to your friend! Just let us know by emailing us at email@teenchallengecincinnati.org

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A note from James' parents ... Having raised James with two other siblings in a Christian home where no drugs or alcohol were ever present, it was as if the world had collapsed on our family and feelings of guilt, failure and family dissensions became the norm. Many "enablers" were often the unseen force to heap even more accusations, judgments and sheer torture upon us.

Finally we found ourselves alone, without church people and very few friends to confide in. We moved, having sold our home, into a small temporary apartment while our new home was being built. It was there, alone in three tiny rooms, that a great inner revelation took place. Nights were spent in tears, wrestling in prayer and searching God's Word for guidance, hope and answers.

And God did answer! What started as pleadings for wisdom and guidance, turned into triumphant praises for the promises that were revealed night after night and all were recorded into four one inch thick journals.

No, we did not see a transformation in James' life for a long time.... but praise God for His promises which strengthened our spirits and confidence that He who began a good work in us would complete it!

Today we see James reunited with his family, a leader in his profession and walking humbling before men and his God. God, in His wisdom, also allowed us to see the multitude of parents who are daily intercessors in behalf of their children and families at the throne of grace, and we must not, and will not, throw away our confidence for it will be richly rewarded. We need to persevere so that when we have done the will of God, we will receive what He has promised. Hebrews 10:35-36

Gerda & Jerry Braunheim

"The Good Report!"

(We want to highlight noteworthy accomplishments from alumni. Please submit items for our next newsletter.)

Chuck Sharp (1982) and his wife Laura have been married for 24 years now. They and their 4 teenagers are doing great! They are involved with Kettering Assembly of God where Chuck works with the youth and college and career departments. He will be interning for the next 2 years under his pastor as he pursues obtaining his ministerial license through the Assemblies of God!



Tim Whitener (1983) attends Crossroads Church and has owned City Sash (a home improvement company) since 1986. He just celebrated 11 years free from alcohol and drugs! He says Teen Challenge saved his life ... the teaching, the fellowship, the memories ... they have never left him.

Danny Cox (2005) is in the process of cutting his first worship CD!

Dennis Rose (2005) called to say he is doing well and drives a delivery truck for Furniture Fair in Fairfield. He and his wife have a 9-month-old daughter and attend a little church in New Richmond, Ohio.

Matthew Kilby (2006) is in Nicaragua working for a center for abandoned children. The 80+ children range in age from 3 to 15 and Matthew is teaching them team-building skills through baseball and soccer. He has been there since January of this year and will be returning to the States in November.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU... Alumni of Teen Challenge (grads and non grads) ... we want to organize, come together in unity and lift each other up! Please call us with your contact information and an update on how you are doing. Alumni meet every 3rd Friday of the month at 7pm. for teaching, sharing and fellowship. Call 513-248-0452 x 101 for more information.



Who Are We?

Located on 165 acres of beautiful countryside in Milford, Teen Challenge Cincinnati is a mission of hope, offering a 9 -12 month residential treatment program to men ages 18-35 who are dealing with the problems 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.

*Restoring God's
dignity and des-
tiny in the hearts
and minds of
men.*



P.O. Box 249, Milford, Ohio 45150-0249
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Please remove my name from your mailing list.

Mail your mailing label(s) to us and we'll take care of it. A postage-paid envelope is provided inside for your convenience.

Remember Teen Challenge when Estate Planning

Our endowment fund, "Securing their Destiny" is growing steadily and stands as an excellent opportunity for your giving consideration – be it wills, stocks, or as a named beneficiary to an insurance policy. This financially wise method of stewardship helps ensure the long-term financial stability of Teen Challenge and provides a planned means for the Ranch to continue its much-needed outreach to the lost, bound in the cycle of drug and alcohol addiction.

For more information call
(513)248-0452 x105

Needs List ... We Need Your Help!

Volunteer Needs:

Local churches are involved with 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
Bringing a men's group to do an evening devotion with the men
Supporting what we do financially on a regular basis

Financial needs:

Financial founders who will help make the Women's Maternity Home possible.

Please consider sponsoring the cost of discipling a young man for an entire month - \$1,800
\$24,000 to re-floor gymnasium

We can always use:

Nice, clean men's dress and work clothing and shoes
Cars or Trucks in good working condition
Automotive mechanic's tools
A working bobcat

Christmas Tree Sale

Christmas trees (cut and live) will be on sale beginning Friday, Nov. 30 thru Friday, Dec. 21.
4:00 to 8:00 M – F,
10:00 – 8:00 Sat
12:00 – 4:00 Sun

