



TEEN CHALLENGE
CINCINNATI
The Proven Cure For The Drug Epidemic

Summer 2006

His Love Has Set Me Free

by Tony Thompson



Tony Thompson

My name is Tony Thompson. I am 24-years-old and the oldest of 3 boys. Growing up I attended Catholic schools and even went to church sporadically, but grew up insecure and fearful lacking faith and instruction in my life. As a result of wanting to have a sense of belonging and purposeful identity, I began to look to drugs. My drug usage began when I was 13 and by the time I was 18, I was on heroin and had fathered a child. I began to try and get help from secular programs but they lacked the power for the inward change that I desperately needed. At age 21, I found myself at the end of my rope ... again. I had just lost a close friend to drugs. I was homeless and hopeless. Despite the dread it created in me, I once again began to detox from heroin. Because of the physical withdrawal symptoms, I used a shower at a friend's house to ease the aches of my body. I walked in that shower covered in the muck and mire of sin only to walk out white as snow. God supernaturally met me in that shower and without having any recent salvation message preached to me, I began to weep and repent. I knew that I had just encountered Jesus. So, I decided to call my Christian grandparents and asked if I could attend church with them. Their support and love helped carry me through the

next trying months. I stayed off drugs for maybe 2 months and then gave in to temptation one day, causing me to relapse. Circumstances grew worse quickly and I found myself homeless again and in legal trouble. Little did I know that when we are faithless, He remains faithful for "He cannot deny Himself." I had been bought with a price and my Heavenly Father was not letting go.

After about 6 weeks, the Lord miraculously led me, alive and not incarcerated, to Teen Challenge. He knew exactly what I needed. God took me from the hustle and bustle of Dayton's city life to a ranch beside a river ... a place where He could restore my soul. Quiet waters ... green pastures ... it was at Teen Challenge that I began to be transformed by my Father's love. My identity went from a thief, dead-beat dad and drug addict to a son of the living God! The Lord began to teach me of His will for my life. I began to receive God's love and instruction while learning to stand on the authority of God's unfailing Word for my life. I was no longer to be enslaved to sin but now was set free to choose.

In September 2004, I completed the discipleship program and Teen Challenge provided me with a car and through their contacts a place to stay and a job at a local feed mill in Wilmington, Ohio. I am now a full time employee - with benefits! Thankfully, I was able to see my daughter while at Teen Challenge and now am able to have her every weekend. She is 5 years old and parenting her has been an absolute joy and has taught me things about love that I had never experienced. The relationship we have is totally awesome and God has been the source of it all including restoring relationships with family, friends and my church family at Dove Church Wilmington. They provide the fellowship and community I so desperately need. I've even been able to use my guitar skills to be a part of the praise team and recently was asked to lead worship in one of the services. God is faithful and will complete what He has started in me!

When we are
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Brook

Showers of Blessings

Our Teen Challenge family grew recently as we welcomed the arrivals of Brook, born January 17 to Skip (Intake Coordinator) and Marisha Skipworth and Samuel, born March 28 to John (Program Supervisor) and Keturah Janis. Wishing God's richest blessings and guidance in these little ones' lives.



Samuel



**Visa/Mastercard
accepted for
donations**

Did You Know?

We provide and encourage each student to take a daily vitamin regimen of a multi-vitamin, calcium-magnesium, B-12, Omega 3 fish oils and C. That's over 39,000 vitamins distributed each year!

Teen Challenge Golf Classic



This year's 8th Annual Teen Challenge Golf Classic was held at Kenwood Country Club. Individual and company sponsorships raised an excess of \$200,000! Special thanks go out to the volunteers, the many sponsors, our event sponsor JTM food group and our Chairman Pierre Paroz. Pictured left to right, are Pierre Paroz of American Micro Products, George Martin Executive Director Teen Challenge and Tony Maas of JTM Food Group.



Email Your Newsletter!

Would you like to get this newsletter electronically? Also, what an opportunity to "forward" the work of the Ranch to your friends! Just let us know by emailing us at geomartin@one.net



Passing of Ruth Williams, GED Teacher

Many of you remember (and have been tutored by) Ruth and Henry Williams. Ruth went on to be with the Lord in March. She and Henry served as our GED teachers for over 14 years. A dedication given in her honor and park bench were

installed on the grounds June 15. Pictured is Henry taking in the dedication plaque and inscription which reads "Hearken unto me, hold thy peace, and I shall teach thee wisdom."



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.

"The Good Report!"

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



Mark Bankemper ~(1980) is married, has 3 children and lives in Shillington, Pennsylvania. He remembers going through the program when we were down on Vine Street in Cincinnati where he helped in the early stages of building our current Milford facilities. He has been clean for the past 26 years! And in 1995 he received his degree in Addiction Studies. For the last 4 years he has been working with the Berks County Prison.

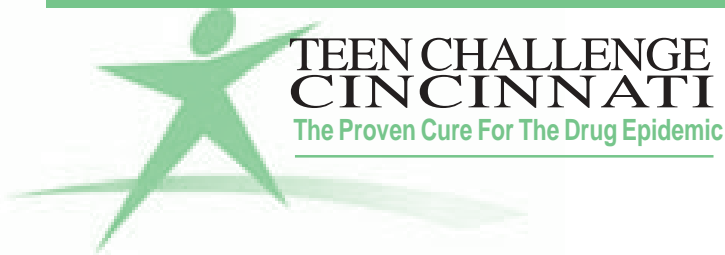
Joe Kiefer ~(1994) and Janine are the proud parents of Julia (4) and Josh (3). Living in Bellevue, KY, they attend First Christian Assembly of God in Cincinnati where Joe is involved with the 4 and 5-year olds. He has his own telemarketing company, The Platinum Group, and is an artist on the side. Having graduated from Northern Kentucky University, he has started classes at Xavier University to get his Master's in Theology.

Aaron Wemlinger ~(1996) has been married for 6 years and has 2 children. He and his family live in Covington, KY, attend Lighthouse Worship Center and Aaron has been working with Montgomery Flooring for the past 8 years.

Josh Bell ~(2005) is working for R&R Donnelley publishing company in Crawfordsville, IN. He also does volunteer work at church and hopes to apply soon to continue his education at a local college.

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.

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



P.O. Box 249, Milford, Ohio 45150-0249
(513) 248-0452 (513) 248-0457 FAX

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United Way Agency



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 the 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:

Always needing drivers for several hours during the week.
Volunteer to teach Microsoft and general computer skills to students.
Volunteer to help students with our garden and orchard.
Volunteer to help in shop to with mower and vehicle maintenance.

Financial needs:

We are in critical need of replacing and upgrading the heating and air conditioning throughout the entire campus. Over half of the units are non functional and the remaining beyond cost effective repair.

Administration building - \$55,000; Dorm - \$32,000; Gym - \$36,000

\$2,100 to install acoustic paneling in the gym giving it more versatility

Please consider sponsoring a student for an entire month - \$1,600

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