

TEEN CHALLENGE CHRISTMAS 2011



In the words of Bob Dylan "The times they are a changin'....."

So here we are at the end of another year. So many things keep on happening as the seasons come and go. We recently held the annual Open Day at Kyabram and it was such a wonderful day of celebration for the 7 graduates of the Live Free program. A great achievement for each of them. There were 2 men graduated from the SLT (Servant Leadership Training) phase. Mark Watkins has gone on to serve in another recovery program in Rockhampton, and begun further training in Bible College. James Polack settled in nearby Tatura, has joined Generations Church and returned to the workforce in the construction industry. Two more stories of amazing grace.

Our son Paul and his beautiful wife Lynda along with their 2 boys Charlie and Joshua sadly leave us after 4 years on staff. Paul recently completed an Advanced Diploma in Counselling and Family Therapy. They are moving to Darwin, to seek an opportunity working with at risk youth. Such mixed feelings of sadness to lose them but joy in seeing them courageously follow the call of their hearts to new unknown frontiers. We love you to bits and will miss you.

Danny & Andrea Kellet along with the sweet little boy Brendan are moving to take up the role at the Willow Grove farm as caretakers. Danny graduated earlier in the year and is pursuing his passion to serve Teen Challenge in this new venture. We are developing an opportunity for father and son bush experiences and seeking to build relationships that help prevent addiction. We ask for prayer and support for this continually.

I believe that the best years of Teen Challenge Victoria are still before us. After the passing of David Wilkerson, (founder of Teen Challenge USA) the message to us is clear. Moses is dead, but we are the Joshua generation going forward into our promised land. Gods promise is He will never leave us or forsake us. He will give us everywhere we put our feet. We need the support of our network more than ever as we reclaim more lives for the kingdom of God and embrace the opportunities before us. Watch this space for further updates. I ask for prayer support, and if possible financial support to enable us to continue with this work.

This Christmas season we rejoice in the truth of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the reason for the season, may you have the peace on earth and goodwill that Jesus came to bring to all men.



P.S. Marcia is doing great after spinal surgery. Thanks to all who prayed and gave us heaps of support.

Yours in Christ's service,
Ps. Neil & Marcia Meyer

Cars 4 Recovery..... Teen Challenge's unique Vehicle Donation Program allows individuals to donate their vehicles and change a life in our rehabilitation program. Proceeds from the sales of the donated vehicles directly fund our program. We have been blessed to receive several vehicles. The benefits to the program are great! **Thanks so much everyone who has donated so far.**

**All donations receive a fair market value donation receipt.*

Remember us!



Please remember us as Christmas approaches. With all of us giving a little we can achieve ALOT!!! All donations are Tax Deductible, we appreciate your help to continue providing this vital ministry.

JAMIES STORY.....



HI MY NAME IS JAMIE, I WAS BORN INTO A MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY YOUNGEST OF 3, MY FATHER AND MOTHER WERE STRICT AND VERY PROTECTIVE OVER ME. I WAS BORN 3 1/2 MONTHS PREMATURE, DYING 3 TIMES AT BIRTH IT WAS A MIRACLE I SURVIVED AND THE FIRST OF MANY MORE TO COME. GROWING UP BEING THE YOUNGEST I FELT OVER LOOKED AND NEVER HEARD, ALWAYS COMPETING FOR ACCEPTANCE AND BELONGING THROUGH OPINIONS OF OTHERS, I WAS A SLAVE TO OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINION OF ME. I TOOK MY SOUL'S SEARCH FOR VALIDATION IN MANY DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, BECAUSE I NEVER FELT WORTHY OR ACCEPTED FOR JUST BEING ME. I HAD HUNDREDS OF FACE'S FOR EVERYONE, NEVER LETTING ANYONE SEE THE REAL ME, BECAUSE I HATED ME. I STARTED USING DRUGS AT 12, THEN I FOUND HEROIN AT 16 IT NUMBED MY PAIN, AND HELPED ME ESCAPE FROM REALITY OF MY ABUSE FROM AN EARLY AGE, THE DEEP ROUTED SHAME THAT WAS CONNECTED WAS UNBEARABLE. I STARTED SELLING DRUGS AND STEALING TO SUPPORT MY HABIT LONGING TO FILL THIS VOID INSIDE ME. MY SELF-IMAGE WAS DISTORTED. I TRIED TAKING MY LIFE MANY TIMES BUT JESUS WAS PROTECTING ME. AFTER LOSING MY TRUST AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY AND MY CHILDREN, I HAD HIT ROCK BOTTOM. EVERYONE GAVE UP ON ME AND WIPED THEIR HANDS WITH ME. I WAS UNPREDICTABLE AND VIOLENT AND EVERYTHING NEARLY CAME TO AN END ONE NIGHT WHEN I STOOD OVER A DRUG DEALER AND GOT STABBED IN THE NECK IN MY ARTERY, BLOOD STARTED TO STREAM OUT MY NECK FAST, I WAS GOING INTO SHOCK, I HELD MY NECK TO TRY STOP THE BLEEDING, I FELL TO MY KNEES AND CRIED OUT TO JESUS. I FELT THIS PEACE COME OVER ME LIKE NOTHING I HAD EVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE. I MOVED MY HAND AND THE BLOOD HAD STOPPED. JESUS SAVED ME IN MY FILTH AND MUCK. SINCE COMING TO TEEN CHALLENGE AND WORKING THROUGH MY PAINFUL PAST WITH MENTORS AND THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, I NOW HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE GREAT CHOICES. MY MIND IS BEING RENEWED DAILY, AND THE HOPE AND JOY I HAVE FOUND THROUGH JESUS FLOWS DOWN INTO MY CHILDREN AND THEIR LIVES. IT IS ONLY THROUGH JESUS THAT I HAVE FREEDOM, IN KNOWING WHO I TRULY AM. I HAVE COMMITTED TO STAY FOR SERVANT LEADERSHIP TRAINING. TEEN CHALLENGE IS A TOUGH JOURNEY BUT THIS PLACE IS TRULY HOLY GROUND AND A TRANSFORMATION CENTRE FOR THE LOST, HOPELESS AND CAPTIVE. I GIVE ALL THE PRAISE TO JESUS CHRIST FOR EVERYTHING HE HAS DONE IN ME. I CAN'T WAIT TO COME ALONGSIDE OTHER MEN THAT WERE LIKE ME AND LEAD THEM TO A PLACE OF RESTORATION AND PEACE THROUGH JESUS. THANKS JESUS!.

A THANKYOU FROM THE PAST—STILL GOING STRONG!!!

My name is Michael Schmidt, I was a student at Teen Challenge in 2002 and this is my story.....from the age of 12 I was introduced to drugs and alcohol. My family was very dysfunctional which led me to become involved with street gangs and bikers. I was working full time by the age of 13 due to my mother having a nervous break down. I had to support my mother. I was a child growing up in an adults world. I never had friends my own age. I hung around the streets, drugs & alcohol. I used heroin, methadone, speed, cocaine and anything else I could get my hands on. This went on for 23 yrs. I made countless attempts to stay clean which never worked. I never had a belief or faith in anything. I was so lost. The only thing that made sense was to die. Around 2002 I was willing to try anything. I had tried everything known to man to sort out my life. I can't remember how or what happened, but I was recommended that Teen Challenge might be worth a try. I was in the program for over 3 months before I realized even where I was, I suffered from bad drug psychosis, but I found there was a power much greater than me. I just knew I could not leave no matter how much I wanted to run. ..I had to surrender, give up the fight and give my all to God and the program. It took me 14 months to complete the program. I then went on to serve at Teen Challenge as it helped save my life! I'm so blessed to have my life back. I've gone on to full time studies where I have done my Cert IV in AOD, Cert IV in Mental Health and also Cert IV in Community Development. I praise the Lord each day for giving me the life I thought was never possible. One day at a time anything is possible with the Lords strength.