

Hello again to our dear friends and supporters of Teen Challenge International Victoria. It's the celebration of Christmas again and all that means to us. The hustle and bustle of shopping for presents, planning for the usual Christmas Day feast and get together of families. It can be a very exciting time especially for the kids, growing in anticipation of receiving gifts that they have dreamed about, trying to be on best behavior so that they are deemed worthy of the presents they desire so much.

In all of the busyness it's important to focus on the origin of Christmas and the message from God to mankind through the gift of his only begotten son Jesus Christ. A gift that none of us deserved, we didn't have to be on our best behavior to receive, Jesus was given because even though we couldn't behave well enough to meet the requirements of Gods holy law, He was born into the world to set men free from sin and death, and receive a free gift of life through faith in Him. In November we celebrated the reality of that gift coming into the lives of some of our graduating students. Our open day and graduation service was held at the IBLP campus in Lilydale and was a fabulous day for all concerned. Two of our men in particular shared so openly and truthfully the struggles they had experienced in life as a result of living life, "trying hard to be good enough" but never succeeding, which led to alcohol addiction and the destructive effect of masking guilt and shame with the use of mood altering substances. Both men shared how they had come to know Jesus Christ as a personal gift to them from a loving and forgiving, restoring, Heavenly Father. Through the growth of faith in an environment of support, strength, transparency, and life in Christ, they have both learnt knew ways of thinking and responding to life pressures and form a brand new self image, an image of themselves formed in them as a gift from God through the understanding of His word, and also from the encouragement and strengthening that come from the believers that they are surrounded with on a daily basis. These men and many others are a living testimony to the power of God at work in the hearts of people who will come to Him and receive the free gift by faith. This is Gods purpose for all men and is the reality of Christmas. Peace on earth and goodwill toward men. Emmanuel, God with us.



We would like to wish you all a wonderful time of reflection over Christmas time and thank you all for your ongoing support that enables the miracle of Christmas to become alive in men's hearts all through the year, bringing peace and goodwill to families affected by addiction.



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



**PLEASE REMEMBER US OVER
THE CHRISTMAS BREAK!**

If you have the heart to help and the capacity, please consider the gift of \$100 towards keeping the Teen Challenge gift available to men seeking help.

(donation slip enclosed)

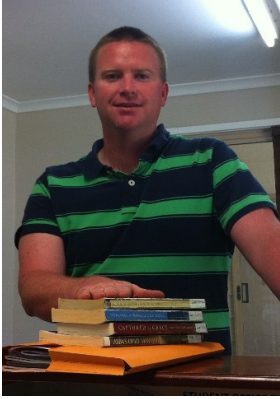


Look at this little guy!...

A big congratulations to Tony & Jes Greely and big brother Sebastian on the arrival of Judah John, born at 3.30pm on December 2nd, 8lb. Another addition to the TC family. What a gift from heaven this little man is!



Sam & Stuart's stories.....



My name is Samuel Power and I know I can't do life and live free without God. For years I have walked a path that has taken me to some very dark places. I have lived a life of lies, fear, anger and deception, a life where I didn't know reality. I've known God my whole life, but until now I never had a relationship with Him. I used every excuse not to come to Teen Challenge, every excuse to avoid the place that has been the best decision of my life. I've recently finished the program and I am staying on to give back to a great cause.

My journey isn't over. I've just begun a new season where I put into practice what I have learnt. Teen Challenge changes men and saves lives. It gives hope back to broken people. I once didn't care about life. I didn't care about others and I didn't care about myself. Thanks to Teen Challenge I care about my life again.

Hi, I'm Stuart Ellis and I am 28 years old. My journey at Teen Challenge began 14 months ago. I came into the program raked with fear, shame and self-hatred. I had used everyone that loved and trusted me. My deceitful life revolved around drug abuse and a self-centered lifestyle. My downward spiral began at 16. I went to church but never accepted myself or allowed God into my heart. This led me to engaging in drug use to provide a place that I belonged. This took me away from Jesus for 10 years. One night after losing the last of my true friends by deceit and drug abuse I cried out to God and he literally told me to come to TC. I found myself at TC 2 weeks later. I was a wreck when I arrived. Since then I have developed an identity in Jesus and a desire to be the light of Jesus to others. I have had immense support from the TC staff and my Mentor. They have walked me through the ruins of my life and helped me repair my broken thinking. This place is amazing! God sent me here because it was the only way for me to get out of my mess and in his presence for longer than a church service. Without God & TC I would still be a wreck and totally bound. Now I grasp freedom in Christ and community.



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.**



Prayer Points:

- **URGENT** provision of a Toyota commuter bus for transporting our students
- Safe return of all students after Christmas
- Continuing financial provision
- Power of the Holy Spirit in the transformation of the hearts & minds of our students
- Continuing grace for the staff of Teen Challenge
- More monthly donors

Praise points:

- Sacrificial giving of our donors, both churches and individuals
- Our dedicated staff & volunteers
- Safe arrival of Judah John to the Greely family
- Gods continued provision for 2012
- Donated cars
- New gym equipment
- Graduating students