



JOY TO THE WORLD!

On Sunday November 10 2013 Teen Challenge celebrated the graduation service at Life Ministry Centre Chirnside Park. It really was a joy to see the families and friends of the Teen Challenge students celebrating the journey of recovery being embraced by these courageous men. You cant know the Joy of having a lost son returned until you have experienced it for yourself, when its one of yours that was lost but now they have been found, its like a dead relative being resurrected. Here is a letter from a mother that was in attendance watching her son stand up and testify to the Grace of God in their family.

"Hi, my name is Debbie . My family and I had the privilege of watching our son Michael graduate at the Teen Challenge graduation on Sunday. To know the road he has traveled and to hear him share his testimony is nothing short of a miracle. We have such a heart of thanksgiving to God and to Teen Challenge. Teen Challenge has not only supported Michael but encouraged and supported his family throughout his journey. I am a mother who has had prayers answered and I have my son back. I thank your church for their hospitality on Sunday and for the support they give Teen Challenge because through their program my son Michael and our family are being restored. God Bless, Debbie"

And as we draw near to the close of another year, we remember this season as the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Teen Challenge only exists to point the way to relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Its only because Jesus is real, that men can come into a life changing relationship with Him. This year as you remember and celebrate the gift of Jesus to the world, would you consider a gift to help Teen Challenge continue to be the light on the hill that shines in the darkness proclaiming the message of the Gospel to the world and help bring Joy to many more families just like this. A \$100 gift this Christmas will bring Joy to your heart and be a great blessing to Teen Challenge



Merry Christmas to you and your family.
Yours in Christ's service
Ps. Neil Meyer
Executive Director



GRADUATION DAY 2013

Jack & Mark's stories.....



Jack's story:

Hi, my name is Jack. I was born in Victoria and grew up in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Both my parents were born in Egypt and they both immigrated here in Australia forty-five years ago. I am the youngest of 3 children and I was raised in a Christian family (Coptic orthodox). Growing up, my father was very strict with us. I grew up with a lot of physical and verbal abuse. So as a young child I had a lot of hurt, anger and sadness growing within me. The older I got, the bigger these emotions got, to the point, that I started to rebel. I had no clue how to deal with these negative emotions. I had to make these feelings disappear, so I started doing drugs & crime from the age of sixteen. The older I got, the greater the hurt became in me and the more trouble I got into. I started doing time in prison by the age of nineteen and it became a regular thing in my life. I am thirty-four years old now and in the last fourteen years of my life I have spent ten years of them in prison. Through these last fifteen years, God has also blessed me with a beautiful wife and three beautiful children that I dearly love but it wasn't enough for me to change. On the 15th January 2013, I walked through the doors of Teen Challenge with a surrendered heart, knowing that I didn't have all the answers and that I've made a complete mess of my own life. Through the time I've been here in Teen Challenge, I have been re-introduced to my Heavenly Father and through Teen Challenge I have begun to know who Jesus really is and how He truly sees me. I have been able to work through these issues that I've carried all these years and He has set me free from all of them and filled me with so much love, peace and joy and I've gone from a heroin junkie to a Jesus junkie thanks to Jesus and Teen Challenge.



Mark's Testimony

Hi Guys, my name is Mark Cornell. I am 44 years old and have been in the program for 10 months. I came from a family of ten kids, seven boys and three girls. My family was strictly non-Christian and growing up for me was confronting and brutal. My dad was a tennis coach and my mum, now deceased, was an old fashioned stay-at-home mum. Growing up for me I really never saw much of either of my parents unless I did something wrong and it was time to be punished. At the age of twelve my whole world got turned upside down. In the next three years, my brother Steven died, my parents separated and I found myself a ward of the State and in a foster home. I had three sets of foster parents from the age of fifteen to eighteen. Nothing stayed the same for me. Change was constant and without warning. The homes were run by the Lutheran Church and I had my first experience with religion. I went to church every week and began making friends, but I never had a relationship with God. It became important for me to get a job and be independent. I seemed to fall into great jobs with good companies. I ended up being employed by BHP to deploy a new operating system and then move into the operating side of the business. I met a good Christian girl (Jodie) and ended up married in 2002. This marriage lasted approximately 3 years and in that time we had two little girls (Amy and Lucy). I ticked all the success boxes in life but internally I was a scared little boy that never grew up. From the age of fifteen, alcohol had always had a major presence in my life and progressively my alcohol use got worse until it was unmanageable. My mum had been battling emphysema for about three years until eventually it took her life in February 2012. I got to spend the last few months of my mum's life getting to know her. Once she passed, I hit the bottle really hard and my whole life was out of control. I just wanted to die. I tried AA but that didn't work for me but through it I met a drug and alcohol GP who brought me some options if I wanted to fight this thing. These options ended up taking me here to Teen Challenge. I entered Teen Challenge the first time of the 20th November 2012. I struggled with giving up my self-will for five weeks before I left on 2nd January 2013. I spent the next thirty-three days in wilderness but something kept calling me back here as if I had unfinished business here. I re-entered the program on the 4th February 2013, completely broken. Since entering the program a second time I am discovering my true self for the first time in my life. I have discovered that not only am I ok but I actually like me. I have found that the void inside me that I have been trying to fill all my life can only be filled by God. I have started a relationship with God which seems to strengthen with time and the many challenges of recovery. For the first time in my life I am actually looking forward to what God has planned for me. I really can't thank Teen Challenge enough for this miracle in my life and for providing a sanctuary where I can grow and be safe. - Amen



UPCOMING EVENT.....



ANZAC DAY
April 25

'Lest We Forget'



Teen Challenge Victoria
Freedom Ride 2014

www.teenchallenge.com.au



LEST WE FORGET

Teen Challenge Victoria Freedom Ride 2014

ANZAC DAY Friday 25th April

Courage
Mate-ship
Sacrifice
Endurance



This is what the Freedom Ride is all about

How about putting in your calendar to support this premier charity event.

The day will begin with a special ANZAC DAY service and breakfast with

Guest Speaker Col Hal Oxley 97 year old WW2 Veteran.

"The Battle For Freedom"

At the outbreak of World War 2 Colonel Oxley sailed with the 2/8 Infantry Battalion AIF to the Middle East. He served in the Greek campaign and then the siege of Tobruk, followed by postings to Syria and Damascus. Returning to Australia & PNG he then served with the Australian Commander in Chiefs Forward battle Headquarters as the youngest Colonel in the AIF and then to McArthur's Forward Battle Headquarters in New Guinea to co-ordinate the Australian plans with the Americans until the end of the war. Though now almost 97 years of age, Oxley has never ceased to play his part in The Battle for Freedom.

I invite you to make this coming ANZAC day a memorable occasion. Come and hear from retired Colonel Oxley real stories of Courage, Mate-ship, Sacrifice and Endurance. This is what it took to keep Australia free. Your participation will assist Teen Challenge to offer a chance at Freedom from addiction for many young Australians. I guarantee you will have a memorable time. Please select your level of support and book your spaces for the breakfast and riders on your team.



Can you help us with.....



Gardening equipment:

Hand mowers
Chain saws
work gloves

Furniture:

Bedside Tables
Wardrobes

Cars:

Cars, utes, caravans, boats, motorbikes

Animals:

Weaned Calves
Cows aged 3 months- 2 years
Pigs

Tradesman:

Concreter
Tree Lopper
Electrician (test and tag)
Plumber

General:

Electric or gas clothes dryers x 2
Washing machines x 2
Laundry baskets
Hills Clothes lines x 6
Crockery (plates, bowls, coffee mugs)
Cutlery (esp. forks, teaspoons, steak knives)

Cleaning:

Back pack/bag less vacuums
Brooms

We are grateful for:

Thank God in the past four months:

7 Salvations
4 Recommitments
2 Baptisms
5 Students graduating program

Donations:

Farm Car: We asked for a station wagon for use the farm and someone blessed us with it.
Great harvest of hay this season
Monthly Donors
Donation of Calves
14 Seater Toyota bus

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Yes, we wish to make a donation!

Donation of... \$100 \$250 \$_____ **OR**



One off donation of: \$ _____

BY CREDIT CARD

Card No: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Card holder name: _____

Signature: _____ Expiry date: ____/____

BY DIRECT DEBIT

Bank Account Name: Teen Challenge International Vic Inc. Acc #: 10007175 BSB: 063-516

Name: Mr / Mrs / Ms _____

Address: _____ P/C: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (M) _____

Email: _____

