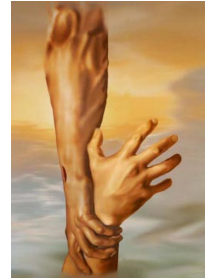




PSALM 113

⁵ Who could possibly compare to the LORD our God? God rules from on high; ⁶ he has to come down to even see heaven and earth! ⁷ God lifts up the poor from the dirt and raises up the needy from the garbage pile. ⁸ to seat them with leaders—with the leaders of his own people! ⁹ God nests the once barren woman at home—now a joyful mother with children! Praise the LORD!”



That’s exactly what we did together on Sunday Nov 16. We gave thanks and praise for the lives pulled out from the garbage dump of drug addiction, crime, and family breakdown. Each year we celebrate the joy of each one that has experienced the reality of that psalm. We heard wonderful testimony of gratitude from Teen Challenge students and family members. Addiction is not an isolated issue only affecting one person, it impacts terribly on the lives of all those who care for the loved one affected. “We have our son back thanks to Teen Challenge”. This was the testimony of one mum. Such a similar emotion to the story of the prodigal son, where the father in the story says, “My son was dead but now he is alive”. As we head into the Christmas season, it’s the time of the year to again reflect on the reality that God has come down to the world he created, through his only son Jesus Christ, that whoever would believe in him as the scriptures have said, would receive new life, eternal life.

ISAIAH 9:6 **FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER: AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.**



GRADUATION DAY NOVEMBER 2014

Thankyou for partnering with Teen Challenge to be the hand of Grace to help pull people out of the garbage dump of life, drug addiction. This Christmas please consider a gift of \$100 to help Teen Challenge Victoria reach out to more people in 2015.



May the Lord bless you and keep you, and may his face shine upon you and give you peace

Ps Neil Meyer
Executive Director
Teen Challenge Victoria

Stories of hope.....



Luke's story:

Hi, my name is Luke, I'm 32 years of age and I am from Frankston in Melbourne's south east. I have been at Teen Challenge for 11 months now. My life before I came to Teen Challenge was downward spiral. I struggled with not knowing who I truly am. I had a low sense of self-worth, fear of rejection and unforgiveness towards myself and others. I was a rebellious teenager, abusive husband and had a drug and alcohol addiction for 16 years. I hurt a lot of people. I would steal money and lie and deceive to fund my drug and alcohol habit. After my marriage fell apart I fell into deep depression and wanted to isolate myself from everyone. I don't know how I managed to work a full time job, but in the end I wasn't about to get a good night's sleep, eat or work. I would burst into tears when I would wake up or try and hold them back at work. I had countless breakdowns, and would fantasise the world and everyone would be better off without me. Each day felt like I was closer to death and I was about to give up for good. I decided I couldn't carry on like that anymore and I reached out for help in November 2013 and before I knew it I arrived at Teen Challenge. Since coming to Teen Challenge I have committed my life back to God and my growing relationship with Jesus Christ has influenced my recovery by knowing I am loved unconditionally no matter what I've done. I'm accepted as who I am with no fear of rejection and God has given me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference. I am learning now to have God at the centre of my life. He is doing his work within me and has promised to complete it. I am truly grateful for the restoration God has brought in my life. My mum and dad have their son back, my daughter Marli has the dad she deserves and my brother and sister have a brother they can rely on. Thank you God, He has turned my suffering into joy.



Jake's Story....

My name is Jake, I'm 20 years old and I'm from Dubbo, NSW. Growing up I was a rebellious kid and loved sports but I had a huge acceptance problem. I always fitted in but I never felt worthy of people loving me out of a distorted image of who I was. Sadly, that followed me into my early teenage years where I found acceptance in drugs. By the age of 16 I was heavily using drugs, injecting heroin and speed. To support my habit I was a full-time thief and drug dealer. I ripped everyone off including my parents and had nothing, living on the streets doing anything to survive. My best friend hung himself when he was 15 and I was emotionally devastated. Nearly dying twice from overdoses and having such a distorted image of who I was I even questioned my sexuality, I was that confused. By the grace of God, and a low point in my life where I was facing jail time and wanting to kill myself, I got referred to Teen Challenge. I ended up there within a week, and little did I know it would be the start of my new life. I had no idea who God was or the amazing love He had for me. So, I thought Teen Challenge was a cult but after a while I gave my heart to the Lord. Not knowing what I had done but hoping I'd find acceptance. Sure enough, God has given me more love and has blessed me with my beautiful mother and father back and restored a relationship that I once believed I'd never have again. I have learned to forgive myself and others for past pain and move forward. God now has spoken a word of youth ministry over my life and I'm planning on Bible College for next year. I just want to finish with saying that I wouldn't have done any of this in my own strength. God filled me with endurance and strength and Teen Challenge helped me find God and freedom. The old Jake is dead and the new loving, caring Jake is here and ready to live a new life sharing God's love and grace with others.



HOME of HOPE update.....



A team of girls from Melbourne visited the Teen Challenge Arizona Home of Hope as a visioning mission to continue the process of establishing the Women and Children's centre here in Melbourne. Here are some of the reflections of one of the team members, Lauren Brewer:

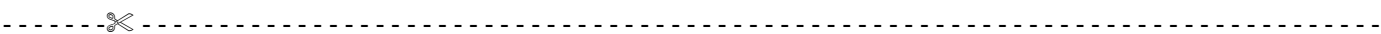


"I had the amazing privilege of going to Phoenix Arizona to be a part of some incredible times of ministry, planning for 2015, attend a Leadership Intensive, make friends with some really fabulous Americans and to visit Teen Challenge Home of Hope in Casa Grande. God changed my life radically in the few weeks I spent there and I have many stories of God's incredible restoration and healing.

I was really overwhelmed during my time at the home, I really was hit in the face with the love of God. As I toured the centre, I cried, to know that this place exists and can be replicated in Melbourne in the near future and to see that it really IS a possibility. I met some amazing girls and heard incredible stories of how the love of God has changed these women and their children's lives and how he has set them free from life controlling addictions and has made them brand new in him. 6 other beautiful Aussie girls met me over there to experience the home and spend time there so we can bring it back home to Australia and begin building our own centre. The above picture was our group at one of the fundraiser banquets held in Arizona.

We are seeking God for the next steps to take and where to from this point in time. I ask that you would pray with us as we embark on this new adventure of setting up Teen Challenge - Home of Hope - Victoria. I know that God's favour is upon us and as we seek him he will show us the ways to go. Please pray for the team, finances, resources and everything we are going to need to do and know to get this place functioning. I'm looking forward to cutting the red ribbon on the day we open. God is so good.

Lauren Brewer and The Home of Hope team



Yes, we wish to make a Christmas 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: _____



Can you help us with.....



NEEDS

Gardening equipment:

- Push mowers
- Chain saw
- Work gloves
- Secateurs

Furniture:

- Bedside Tables
- Wardrobes
- Metal bunk beds
- Single mattresses (new only)

Thrift Store:

- Quality lounge suites
- Bedroom suites
- Household furniture

Cars:

- Cars, utes, caravans, boats, motorbikes

Animals:

- Weaned Calves
- Cows aged 3 months- 2 years
- Pigs

Tradesman:

- Concreter: repair footpaths
- Electrician (test and tag) entire site (2 days)

General:

- Washing machines x 2 (new only)
- Laundry baskets
- Clothes lines x 4
- Crockery (plates, bowls, coffee mugs)
- Cutlery (esp. forks, teaspoons, steak knives)

Cleaning:

- Back pack/bag less vacuums
- Brooms

Property:

- Paint
- Gas Frying Vat
- 200 Stacking chairs

PRAISE REPORTS (We Are Grateful For)

Thank God in the past 12 months:

- 43 Salvations
- 8 Recommitments
- 6 Baptisms
- 11 Students finishing program

Donations:

- We needed work boots and safety shirts: We were abundantly blessed by a donor!
- Great harvest of hay this season
- Monthly Donors
- Amazing support and donations for Kyabram Thrift Store

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas invite?....

This year we have 8 of our Teen Challenge men who are currently in the program and have nowhere safe to go for Christmas! Some of these guys do not know what it is like for family to come together in peace and celebrate the birth of our Saviour. If you are able to have one or more of these men to come join you for Christmas please give David Hunter a call on 58523777.

