

TEEN CHALLENGE VICTORIA—WINTER UPDATE 2014

HOME OF HOPE VISION LAUNCH

On Monday May 19th Teen Challenge Victoria launched the vision to develop a center for single women and also women with children. A buffet dinner was attended by approx 150 keen



supporters who gave generously to the development of the new Home of Hope. Tracey Hilton, Director of Teen Challenge WA (*her story on the next page*) shared her story of amazing grace that took her from a broken girl to a vibrant loving capable mum and now Teen Challenge director, author and public speaker. Rev Diane Swanson from Global Teen Challenge shared about the Home of Hope Teen Challenge center in Arizona that she pioneered and directed for 10 years, this was the center I visited in February. Home of Hope cares for women and their children and brings hope and freedom back into the lives through a loving community of faith, teaching them how to live and love again. There's fresh evidence about the effects of women drinking alcohol while pregnant. While overall fewer Australian women are drinking while they're pregnant, the proportion of pregnant women drinking at high levels hasn't changed. Almost 4 per cent of Australian women meet the criteria for an alcohol use disorder in any given year. According to research, less than one in 10 of them receive any treatment and the coverage is even worse for women who are pregnant. In a letter published in the Medical Journal of Australia, the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre says there's not enough support for pregnant women with an alcohol dependence (ABC NEWS AM Program). A few relevant facts from The report, *For Kids' Sake: Repairing the Social Environment for Australian Children and Young People*, was authored by Professor Patrick Parkinson AM, professor of law at the University of Sydney, Full Report available <http://www.acl.org.au/publications/for-kids-sake/>. The report tracks the deterioration in the wellbeing of many children and young people – especially adolescent girls – in Australia over the last 10 to 15 years and examines the extent to which this is the result of the increasing fragility of Australia's family life. A doubling in the rate of hospitalisation for alcohol intoxication for women aged 15-24 between 1998 and 2006.

Teen Challenge Victoria is committed to being part of the answer for women and children affected by addiction, as we already do with men. . We have begun with our first gathering and will now continue to raise funds and support to bring this dream into reality. As Jesus taught us to pray, let your kingdom come, let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We believe its heavens dream to save heal and deliver these precious people. Will you pray, believe and support the Home of Hope?



Many Blessings

Neil Meyer

Ps. Neil Meyer
Executive Director



Ps Neil speaking at Home of Hope dinner, May 19th

Stories of God's Grace.....

Tracey Hilton - Director of Grace Academy, Teen Challenge WA

I grew up in a family where both of my parents were addicts. My childhood was filled with emotional, physical and sexual abuse which led to my own personal drug and alcohol use from the tender age of eight onwards. After a long battle with mouth and throat cancer, my Mum died of drug poisoning, which left me devastated at fifteen, and on a rapid downward spiral. The life I lived was merely an existence with one disappointment after another.

I had tried many different rehabs and programs prior to entering the Teen Challenge rehabilitation program at 27 years of age. I had endured much abuse, drug and alcohol addiction, prostitution, suicide attempts, mental institutions, a marriage breakdown with my children in foster care and more. I was searching for answers, I just wanted to be happy even if it was just for one hour, and I just wanted to be free. Living in a distorted reality with shattered dreams I'd lost all hope. My story is not so much about what happened to me, but what I did with what happened to me and how I found freedom and victory through my relationship with the Lord. He made a way of escape for me from my own personal hell on earth, as only a miracle working God could. I have

documented my life so others can see that a way of escape is possible. You don't have to live a life dictated to by your past. You have the power of choice in everything You do. I have confidence and purpose and I relish the opportunity to continue to help people caught in the never ending cycle of life controlling problems, addiction and abuse. I want to inspire people that real change is possible. What was once a life of heartache and pain is now a work of beauty, a life of victory, a restored life, a life worth living. www.tracyhilton.com.au



Tracy Hilton - before & after TC



Prayer request for Home of Hope



Genesis 26 is a passage of scripture containing a story of Isaac seeking a place to settle with his flocks. He came to the wells his father Abraham had dug in his travels, and reopened a well. There was some tribal contention, so he moved to another well, and again there was tribal tension. The third well they came to, there was no trouble so

they named it Rehoboth, meaning a place for us to spread out and prosper. Approx three years ago a prophet told me to read Gen 26, I did, but had no clue as to its relevance to our situation. In late 2005 Teen Challenge Victoria closed the women's program at Kyabram. The program was not functioning well for a number of reasons and so the decision was made to focus on the men's program. Our prayer has been since then, let your kingdom come and your will be done with regards to a program for women.

The first attempt we had to begin a program for women ended with some challenges that we found unworkable. We have continued to seek direction to begin a program and this year the vision to begin the Home of Hope was launched at the dinner just recently. Unfortunately we have now met with resistance again. The facility that we thought we could use has now proved to be unsuitable for a number of reasons. I must say I was greatly discouraged by this finding since we were in the middle of launching the vision. I was reminded of this chapter so read it again, now it makes sense to me. The week before our Home of Hope dinner I was discussing this passage with a board member and I received an email from the president of Global Teen Challenge. It was a story about Gen 26, and a story of the struggle he had when Teen Challenge Florida was looking for a place to spread out and prosper. This greatly encouraged me to keep moving forward and believe that God will supply. So we find ourselves trusting for our Rehoboth. Would you join with us in prayerfully believing for our place to spread out and prosper. With God ALL things are possible to those who believe.

...more stories of God's Grace!



Hi my name is Heinz and I have been living in Melbourne since 1983. In 2012, things went awry for me. My last home before coming to Teen Challenge was a ministry apartment in Kensington from which I was ordered to leave. My life really deteriorated with my new found homelessness. Substances had always been integral to my life, like wine, marijuana and once or twice a week heroin. Happiness was a distant memory and I started to realise that without some real help death was looking attractive. It is not that I wanted to die but living was becoming too difficult. In 2013, the drugs stopped working and I remember thinking, "What did I do to deserve this?" About this time a Christian friend suggested asking God and to ring this drug/alcohol rehab named Teen Challenge. I thought to myself – I have run out of options, I'll try that. At the end of this month, I'll have been here a year. Initially it was quite difficult but once I allowed God into my life and followed the directions I really have grown and today I have direction and the joy of the Lord in my life and that's got to be positive. Praise the LORD, Amen.

Psalm 27:4-5: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

Hi my name is Dan and I am 29 years old. I have been at Teen Challenge for 7.5 months. When I got to Teen challenge my life was an absolute train wreck. I had a reasonably normal country upbringing in Tasmania. Although mum did her best there wasn't much love around. At about 9 years old dad had an affair and left and then the next year my mum had a massive car accident and was made a quadriplegic. This period turned my world upside down. I spent the next 18 years searching for acceptance in a lot of different areas but mainly football. I loved the game and the culture that went with it. As I stumbled into Teen Challenge the only thing I had from my life was my two beautiful children, Pacey and Tahria. Everyone else had had enough of me. I walked through the doors with two black eyes and was 135kg. I was a mess. I then realised I had found the love and acceptance I was looking for. The love of my Father. Realising what sacrifice God had made for me totally changed my heart. My heart is now for Him and I constantly crave more and more of His presence in my life. Since being here God has restored relationships with my family, taken all my legal issues away and given me the strength and the determination to lose over 30kg. He has turned me from a thief and a liar into a man who is honest and loves openly. The greatest trials of my life are still ahead of me but I know with my Father who loves me and tells me each and every day just how much I can conquer everything. I now have a desire to go into chaplaincy work after the program to help change the football culture I grew up in. I would never have dreamed of this but thanks to my Father it is a reality. Thank you Jesus.





Teen Challenge Victoria Thrift Store

As part of the strategic plan to assist with funding the Teen Challenge program a new venture is very close to opening in the main street of Kyabram. The Teen Challenge Thrift store will provide a source of funding but also a great opportunity to give retail work experience to some of the Teen Challenge students and graduates. Please consider helping with clothing, furniture, bric a brac. If you have goods for the thrift store please call 58523777 and speak to Brian Hoskin. We can arrange pick up or drop off

Prayer Points:

- Continuing financial provision
- Continued transformation of the hearts & minds of our students
- Continuing grace for the staff of Teen Challenge
- More monthly donors
- Prayer for development of Home of Hope

Praise points:

- Our dedicated staff & volunteers
- Sacrificial giving of our donors, both churches and individuals

CAN YOU HELP?

Due to increased numbers and old lumpy beds that we have had to throw out....we are in need for some new King size single beds for our

men. We are also in need of new linen ie: king size single bed sheets, double doonas & doona covers, pillows, towels, heaters for rooms. If you are able to help with any of these items please contact our office on 58 523777.

SATURDAY October 11th



Teen Challenge Victoria Freedom Ride 2014

www.teenchallenge.com.au



Register on line at: www.mycause.com.au/events/teenchallengevictoriafreedomride
RAISING FUNDS FOR TEEN CHALLENGE GRACE ACADEMY AND HOME OF HOPE

Yes, we wish to make a monthly donation!



Donation of... \$50 \$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: _____