

# TEEN CHALLENGE UPDATE

## 50 YEARS OF MIRACLES CONGRATULATIONS TEEN CHALLENGE INTERNATIONAL

What a wonderful experience, attending the 50th anniversary of Teen Challenge. My wife Marcia and myself traveled to the USA to be part of the celebrations. It was three days of hearing stories of miraculous life change as men and women encountered the amazing grace of God, through a connection with Teen Challenge.

The event took place in New York City, at Time Square Church, currently pastored by David Wilkerson, the founder of the Teen Challenge ministry.

Nicky Cruz shared his story on the opening night, as well as other gang members that were present at the original outreach meeting, where the whole thing began.

Over the next few days we heard many stories of people coming out of a life of hopeless addiction, by coming to Teen Challenge, encountering the love of God through faith in Christ and discovering a destiny of service in ministry. Many of the 1000+ centers in over 100 countries around the world, have been pioneered by Teen Challenge students, going on to reach out to others.

Jesus said to his disciples, "freely you have received, freely give". This is the miracle that happens to people right here in Victoria as well as in the USA.

It's part of Gods amazing plan to bring everything back to himself, through faith in Jesus Christ, even lost broken, addicted men and women.

The mission before us at this time is to continue to reach out to the people group of addicted men and women, spread over the entire globe. At this moment there are 38 countries wanting Teen Challenge centers established to help with the work of reaching the 200 million registered drug addicts around the world. These are the ones we know about.



David Wilkerson & Nicky Cruz

Don Wilkerson shared a concluding message, that we are grateful for the awesome miracles of the past 50 years, but we now have to usher in the next generation of leaders, to grow the work and help even more people over the next 50 years. It's a big challenge, but we serve a great and mighty God, who always causes us to triumph.

I have returned from the USA with a greater vision to see the Lord grow Teen Challenge Victoria into all it can be. I believe the best is yet to come together we can do our part to reach those who want help, to learn how to live in all that they can be, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Neil Meyer  
Executive Director



# JUSTICE COMES TO TO

The consequences of a drug-affected life go beyond the personal impact, there are often legal repercussions that the men have to face. Some of our students in the Live Free Program are bailed here; others are serving Intensive Corrections Orders (ICO); whilst others work off their Community Based Orders as part of the program. As a result, we are often liaising with Corrections Victoria, Legal Aid and the Courts to help the men in the program take responsibility for their actions and to serve their orders or sentences at our Kyabram Campus.



Reg Marron & Neil Meyer

On Monday September 15<sup>th</sup>, our relationship with the Courts was further strengthened through the visit of His Honour, Reg Marron, who is the supervisor of the 108 magistrates in North Western Victoria. He stayed for dinner and then sat with a number of the students to hear their stories, and how Teen Challenge has played

an important role in their recovery and sobriety. The fact that the men are no longer using, no longer committing crime and are in an ongoing supportive relationship speaks volumes.

One of our students was indicted for burglary, theft, drink driving and driving unlicensed. The magistrate of that court stated that she takes these matters "very seriously" and that our student was certainly looking at immediate imprisonment. At the time of the hearing, the student had been in the Live Free Program for 14 months. On hearing the testimony of the changes in this particular student's life, the magistrate said that this was "uplifting, heartening and inspiring" and that "the court needs to hear more stories like this". Consequently, the student was given an ICO to complete the program, a fine and a loss of licence for 46 months.

This is often the case when there is evidence of genuine change in someone's life. The Live Free Program exists to not only help the men become free from addiction, but also to give them an opportunity to be transformed from the inside out, not just rehabilitated. God loves justice, and seeing how that is played out in the reality of the men's lives is definitely inspiring.



## "LIVE FREE" GO CYCLING

Thanks to the Gandel foundation, Teen Challenge has been assisted to purchase some excellent quality road cycles.

Many of our students have taken the opportunity to get into a regular cycling routine, assisting with physical fitness and learning a new sport.

We have 3 of our students, Tim, Bernie and Simon, heading off down the Great Ocean Road, as part of the Tour de Freedom, fundraising event. This is one of Australia's premier cycling events.



It will be held from Sunday October 19-Thursday 23rd. The event will take in some of the most picturesque scenery in Australia along 701 km of the Great Ocean, Victoria.

The guys have committed to the ride, to raise funds to give some other young people else a chance to "Live Free" from addictive behaviours. Please give what you can to help them reach their target of \$3000 each. If everyone does what they can, the job will get done.



YES! I want to partner with Teen Challenge in transforming lives today!

Please tick the appropriate boxes

- Monthly support \$25  
 Monthly support \$50  
 Monthly support \$100

- One off gift  
 Other

\$   
\$

I will pay by:

- VISA  
 Mastercard  
 Bankcard  
 Cheque

Please return to:  
Teen Challenge  
Victoria Inc.

PO Box 426, Kyabram Vic 3619

All gifts over \$2.00 are fully tax deductible

Name:   
Address:   
State:  Post Code:   
E-mail:

Card No:   
Card holder name:   
Signature:  Exp:   
Phone No:

# ADAM

I grew up feeling abandoned by my Father and my Mother. My Dad worked 70 to 80 hours a week and I was never able to connect with my Mum. This left me with a strong sense of something being wrong with me. Over my childhood years I learned to escape the pain I felt by creating lives in my head where I was happy. From the age of 15, I also began to use sexual fantasy to take away my pain. This ended up with an addiction to pornography by the time I was 23.

At the age of 17, I was depressed and no longer wanted to live. At that time, a friend of mine invited me to go to his church. It was then that I connected with God. I continued to struggle with depression, anger, unforgiveness and pornography. I came to Teen Challenge in 2006. After 15 months, I left due to my own self-pity and I had a negative attitude. I then returned 1 month later in August 2007.

I still struggled for the first few weeks and almost left a few times. I am now at a place where God has helped me get in touch with a lot of my issues. One of those issues was realising how the dysfunction with my parents had interfered with my ability to trust and relate to God and others. I have stopped hiding, which I have done since I was 11, because of shame. I have now become more open about my struggles. God has helped me get in touch with how I view myself, which was as a monster who couldn't be trusted, and shown me how He sees me, a lost little boy who never grew up. He is helping me connect with the loneliness I have refused to feel all my life. The longer I am here, the harder it seems. But I now have hope, because I know that God is taking me deeper and bringing more healing so that I can live a successful life with him.



## MANY THANKS TO THE CREW FROM CORNERSTONE CREATIONS.

These awesome men of God came and donated time and materials to lay new concrete paths leading to the pickers huts.

The old huts are in the process of refurbishment to make room for our ever expanding Servant Leadership Training students.

These paths make it possible to maintain a much higher standard of room cleanliness, something we insist on at Teen Challenge.



# CONGRATULATIONS MARK AND ELISE

August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008 was the date we celebrated the marriage of Mark Stokes and Elise Amery. The wedding was held at Rushworth near Kyabram, in a beautiful little country church.

Mark came to Teen Challenge in 2005 as a student, which was the beginning of a remarkable turn around in his life. Mark graduated the program, stayed on to do our Servant Leadership Training, becoming a full time staff member. Elise began work at Teen Challenge in 2006, working in the Administration Department. She had nurtured a dream to be part of the TC team since she was a young girl. Her parents had



been part of the team here years ago, in the early days of setting up in Kyabram. It wasn't long after Mark became a staff member that it was reasonably obvious that he was visiting the office more than usual. This presented them both with an unusual courtship, living in community, with the challenges that brings. I commend them for having conducted themselves

with great integrity during that stage of their journey. Mark and Elise Stokes live on property as husband and wife, continuing to serve the TC community. Well done guys and congratulations from all of us.

## NEW FORKLIFT



Teen Challenge is committed to developing opportunities for workplace training for our students. Part of this commitment has been to secure necessary equipment to assist with this becoming a reality.

It is with great pleasure that we say thank you to the Marian & E H Flack Trust for providing a donation to purchase a new forklift.

With this forklift we can now begin a training program to enable students to obtain a Forklift Drivers Certificate. All of these qualifications and experience can greatly assist with employment opportunities when graduating the program and re-entering the workforce.

The forklift is used in our small enterprise, work training program and loading recycled pallets onto trucks for delivery to Melbourne.

## CONTACT DETAILS:

Kyabram Training Centre  
PO Box 426 Kyabram, Victoria 3619  
Phone: 03 5852 3777 Fax: 03 5852 3942

## OPEN DAY

**November 8th, 10.00am - 4pm at Kyabram**  
Come for a visit!

Enjoy sausage sizzle, tours, testimonies. Come and see the developments over the past 12 months. Share in the lives of our TC therapeutic community.

## GATEHOUSE TRAINING DAY

**March 21st 2009 Kyabram Centre**  
If you would like to train as a Gatehouse Intake Worker, please phone our office with your details!!

## PRAISE POINTS

### We are grateful for:

- 9 Graduates
- 5 Servant Leaders in training
- 1 Support Worker
- 1 new staff member - Adam Hall
- New pallet building enterprise
- Donation of truck
- Donation of compressor

### Please Pray for:

- 8-12 seater bus
- Facility for womens program
- Churches to become supporting Gatehouses
- Students on waiting list