

# 2008 President's Report

## In the Presence of God

This past year has been one of multiplied blessings from the Lord. After 30 years of ministry, the Lord provided for us to build and dedicate new facilities that will allow us to grow by 150% over the next several years. We are still in awe of all that God has done.

I believe the key to this has been the Lord teaching us to keep our eyes on Him rather than on our circumstances. He tells us in His Word, ***“Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness; and all of these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33 NASB)*** It has been a joy to learn how to put Him first in all we do. As the Word is fed into our students, they realize they no longer have to walk in darkness. God placed them here at Teen Challenge and He has new plans for them as they grow in His likeness.

As we continue to look to Him to provide for our ministry needs, we are learning to spend more time in His Presence. The Bible tells us that in the Presence of the Lord there is fullness of joy. Moses told the Lord if His Presence did not go with them to the Promised Land, then he did not want to go. It is the Presence of God that makes Christians unique to the world.

Centuries ago, a monk by the name of Brother Lawrence wrote a book titled ***“Practicing the Presence of God.”*** He was not a theologian; he washed dishes in the kitchen of the monastery. He practiced being in the Presence of God even in the menial task of washing dishes. Centuries later, his little book still inspires Christians all over the world.

As we reflect back over 2008, we can certainly see that it was the Presence of God here on our campus that caused the hearts of our students to change. When visitors come, the first thing they say is something like, ***“You can feel the Presence of the Lord on this campus.”***

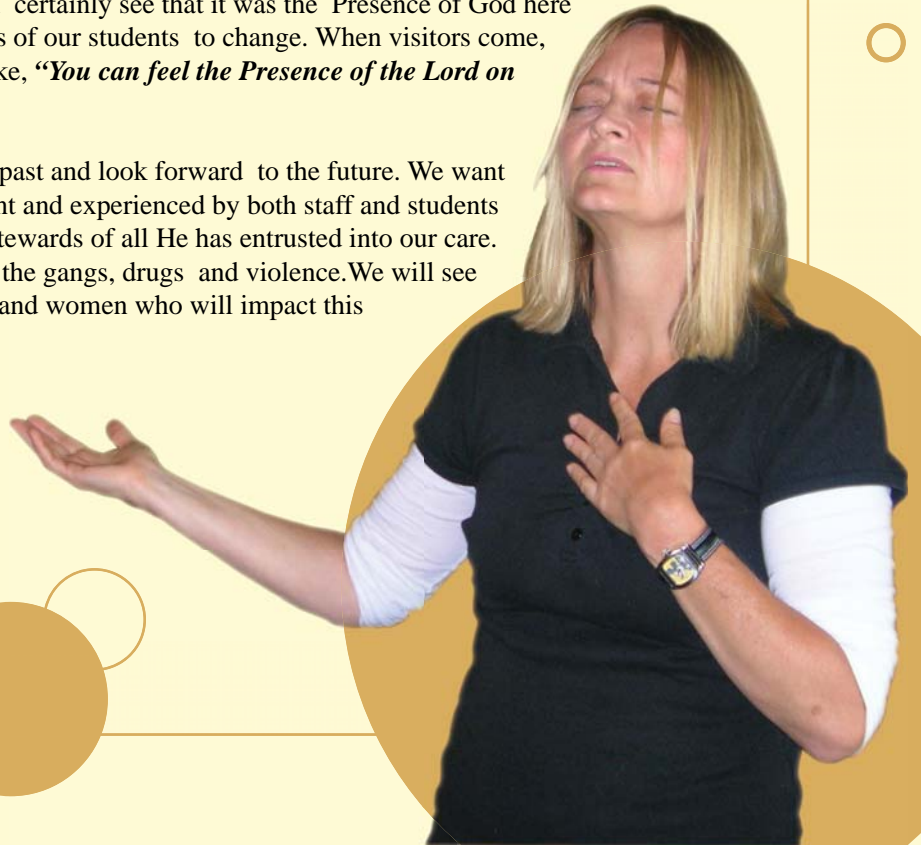
That is our desire as we reflect on the past and look forward to the future. We want the Presence of God to be more evident and experienced by both staff and students than ever before. We will be faithful stewards of all He has entrusted into our care. We want to take back the streets from the gangs, drugs and violence. We will see God raise up transformed young men and women who will impact this generation for the cause of Christ.

With God all things are possible!

In His Amazing Grace,

*Roger L. Helle*

Roger L. Helle  
President



# Staying in the Presence of God

## *Taking Him to the Streets*

Though we didn't make it to Mexico this year, our students did hit the streets. This time, instead of being a gang member, or a "druggie", they were actually witnessing to others. They walked among the homeless and offered prayer, they stopped strangers on the Walking Bridge and shared their testimonies. They also had opportunities to witness in jails. One of our current students went back to the jail she came from and shared her story; many women asked for prayer that day. We have been able to go to schools, community centers and youth groups educating others about the dangers of drugs.

At a local high school, Sarah shared her life story. She said she caught the eye of two specific girls in the crowd; they looked like the girls she used to hang out with. Sarah cried, as she expressed the low self-esteem she used to have and the lifestyle she lived to cover it up. After speaking, the same two young ladies came up to her and expressed they, too, had the same life. Seeds were planted that day, and Sarah gave them *hope* for a better future. *Galatians 6:8...* "The one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life".

## *Loving by Example*

Our staff, humble men and women called by God, come here to love on the hopeless and desperate. They give without expectation and pour the love of Christ into the students. Tough love isn't easy, but the rewards are great. At Adam's graduation, with tears in his eyes, he presented a plaque to **John Thomas**, his counselor. It read in part, "Thanks John for laying down your life to help better mine." John said, "There's no better reward than to see a new life in Christ."

**Tammy** remembers giving a coat to an incoming student. The girl couldn't believe someone would just "give" her something. Tammy said, "We become the hands of Jesus". At a recent chapel, **Shari** knew God was prompting her to pray for David. She asked if he needed prayer. "No, I'm Ok," he responded. Pressing on Shari, said "David, really how are you today?" "I feel horrible", he cried! "We prayed together and felt the Glory of the Lord intervening. *It is an honor and a humbling experience to be obedient when God calls upon you.*"

A student was overwhelmed when **Joel**, his counselor, bought him a small gift. This young man had a problem receiving gifts; yet he was hungry for the Word. Joel reminded him of the scripture, *2 Kings 4: "There are no jars left. Then the oil stopped flowing."* He explained, "You see, God supplied all the widow's needs. When you are an open vessel to God, He will pour blessings into you." "Wow, the student replied, I never saw it that way before; this gift you have given me actually came from God."

**Sandra** reflected back on her years in ministry. With teary eyes, she recalled many life-changing moments. Her favorite is when a graduate calls with a family update. She hears a "glory" report, when they share how God continues to move in their life.

The staff help the students become open vessels for God to fill them with His love and blessings.



*David Olson praying for students*

## Meeting Jesus in Chapel

"I see a place where the enemy is driven out of individual lives by the sheer depth of God's presence. I see a place where Jesus is glorified as healer of body and soul." These are the words of **David Olson**, a 1983 Teen Challenge graduate and pastor of an incredibly growing church in Iowa. Words can't express what happens the week we invite him to minister to our Staff and students.

During this week, many have a personal encounter with Jesus. We spend time praising and dwelling with God, knowing He wants to meet with us on a personal level. Dave has an incredible way of teaching scripture; it's as though you were hearing it for the first time. We have seen broken students approach the altar, fall at the feet of God and watch as transformation takes place. Lives are changed forever. *1 Corinthians 15:52 "...in the twinkling of an eye,...for the trumpet shall sound, ...and we shall be changed."*



*Kim and her daughter Chloe*

My name is **Kim Carter**, I'm 26 years old. Before I came to Teen Challenge, I was facing prison time. I had lived a lifestyle of drug addiction, bad relationships and out of control anger. I learned at a young age how to numb the pain of my father never being around and from my mother always working. I felt alone, lost, unaccepted and unloved.

I traded my innocence, athletic ability and education for the cheap pleasures of this world. At a young age, I got caught up in making meth and running with an older crowd. I hurt my family so much and in the middle of my addiction, I lost both of my parents. They died on separate occasions very spontaneously. I gave up two baby girls for adoption because I could not care for them and lost every belonging I had. Everyone I had trusted disappeared. I had no drugs, no money, nobody and was homeless. I was ashamed and smothered with guilt. I felt like I deserved prison time; like I was not worth being loved.

My aunt told me prison wasn't the answer and I needed help. She worked really hard to get me into Teen Challenge. In my pain and foggy thinking, I agreed to go. I arrived broken, insecure,

*The bigger the mess the bigger the miracle*

unworthy and I felt unloved. My anger began to surface and I had nothing to numb it. My emotions that had been stuffed were beginning to release. I didn't know what to do or expect. I was taught to express them and talk about them. The staff encouraged and helped me to deal with things that I had not dealt with for so long. They introduced me to Jesus Christ who is now **My Lord and Savior**, who I now have a relationship with. I put my trust in Him and He is now my assurance. I cannot forget how His peace and goodness are always with me in my times of trouble. His voice speaks to my heart and guides me daily.

He has restored many relationships and just totally put a favor on me beyond what I could ask for. He's changed my life. He has used Teen Challenge as a tool in my life and I'm so grateful for the staff and for God's plan for my life. I am thankful for His Grace by which I am saved. **"My Grace is sufficient, my power is made perfect in your weakness!" 2 Corn 12:9**



*Drew and his wife Amy*

My name is **Drew Ledford**, I'm 20 years old. My parents divorced when I was 10 and I started smoking pot in the eighth grade. I wanted to hang out with the dudes who I thought were cool. Eventually, I started doing harder drugs and what started out having a little fun turned into an everyday thing that I depended on. I did everything possible to get the drugs I wanted. I stole from the people who loved me, sold everything I had, and put my life in danger; all because I was being controlled by something. Finally, I had an opportunity to go to Teen Challenge.

God got a hold of my heart and completely changed it. He has restored my relationship with my family. He has given me a hope and a desire to serve Him and to tell other people about the love and mercy of God. I have done and seen so many awesome things in the past two years. My little brother has given his heart to Jesus; I've been to Mexico with the Teen Challenge mission team and have seen people turn their lives over to God. It's crazy to think about all the stuff that God has done for me; I'm psyched to fulfill the plan He has for me. I know it'll be awesome! Since I graduated, I got married to an awesome Christian woman. We are active in our church, attending school and working full time. I never in my life thought I would be where I am today; it's only by the Grace and Mercy of God that I'm even still alive.

## Vision for 2009

In 2008, we saw the accomplishment of many dreams. With our new facilities, our program will be able to grow significantly in the years ahead. As we raise additional support, we can recruit new staff to accommodate taking in additional students and will continue to help the lost become drug free through Christian discipleship training. **Luke 19:10 says, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."**

As we grow, we will be developing a Crisis Phase for our program. This phase of the program will allow us to bring in men and women who need help **right now**. This will make us the **only** Teen Challenge to offer **all four phases** of the ministry to both men and women.

We started 2009 by adding an Evangelism Outreach Coordinator. We will expand the school and prison outreaches, take more teams to the streets and, as God provides, take another team to Mexico. We know we will see a significant increase in those who will come to Christ through the various outreach efforts. We teach our students God's great commission. When our students share their personal testimony, they are amazed how others are affected. As one exclaimed, "Wow, I can't believe God would use someone like me" The outreaches give them a fresh vision of who they are in Him.

As always, we will continue to work with many different groups and ministries, locally and internationally, sharing the lessons we have learned over the years. Our desire is to reproduce ourselves to expand His Kingdom.

One new goal will be to develop a program to mentor developing leaders, training those who feel called to ministries similar to Teen Challenge. Together, we can make a difference in our world for the cause of Christ.

**"Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail." (Habakkuk 2:2-3 NASB)**

## Calendar of Events

Annual Banquet - April 30th

Walk for Hope - July 11th

Golf Classic - September 29th

Motorcycle Ride- November 14th

## A year in a glance

2008 was a milestone for us. We celebrated 30 years in ministry, dedicated our new facilities and moved the students into their new dormitories. We started having graduations, chapel and dining in our new multi-purpose building. We met many new volunteers, received a variety of donations, many of which helped us decorate the new facilities. Though we were unable to travel to Mexico this year, we still were able to reach 8946 lives by our outreaches in jail, schools and on the streets. We contacted 60 inmates and had 152 decisions for Christ within our program and outreaches. We answered over 5500 crisis calls for help, yet still referred 303 individuals to other programs.

**Babs Rymer**, Chairman of the Board for three years, stepped down this year; however, she will remain as an active board member. Words are not adequate to describe what Babs has and will continue to do in this ministry. She has an amazing desire to help others, with high energy and a passion for Jesus; she gets it done! She pursues the things of God with passion and energy that very few people are able to reflect. **Thank you Babs!**



**Babs Rymer**

As we close out the year's budget, we found our income to be \$1,226,296 and our expenses \$1,263,305. Though we ended in the red, we will continue to seek God for Him to provide for this ministry.

Because of you, our faithful partners, we continue to reach the hurting and the hopeless. We'll never know the full impact of our labor this side of heaven. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.



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