

March 25, 2003  
Newsletter



## *Hark! I bring you Tidings of Good News!*

*I am graduating from Teen Challenge!*

*By Rebecca Gamble*

*On March 7, 2003, I will have completed 483 days of growth, healing, learning, and education under the covering of the Teen Challenge Ministry in both Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Graham Washington. I entered the Teen Challenge program on November 9, 2001.*

*After six years, ten hospitalizations, and much, much, more, I knew something had to change. I knew I had hurt many people and was continuing to hurt many more. I didn't want to do that any more and I was tired of trying to be better. I had been diagnosed with everything from Depression to Borderline Personality Disorder. Doctors tried to help me with medications and a variety of different therapy techniques, but nothing worked. I felt a great deal like the women in Mark 5:*

*"And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all that she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, "I will be healed." - Mark 5:25-28*

*I prayed on Sunday, November 4, 2001, for God to help me. On November 6, 2001 my sister Sheri called me and told me about a place called Teen Challenge. On November 9, 2001, I began a journey in response to God's answer to prayer. For the first six months God began working in me by building a foundation in His Word. He taught me discipline and taught me the principle that "obedience is better than sacrifice," (1 Samuel 15:22) and we can show love through our obedience to Him.*

*At the end of six months, I transferred to the Graham Facility and began a second leg in my journey. On June 5, 2002 I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and began to learn how to pray, how to cry out to God with all of my heart. I had a choice. A wise person told me I could go all the way through Teen Challenge and never really learn to change, continuing to be the same as when I came in, or I could open my heart up to God and let Him change me. I did not want to be the same as I had been (manipulative, controlling, depressed, guilt ridden, full of pride, insecure, afraid of rejection and abandonment) so I chose to let God work, and learned how to lean on Him.*

*That same wise person gave me something else of great value. She told me that she couldn't help me; the only person who has the answers to all of my problems and questions was Jesus Christ. I reached out and touched the hem of his robe and, He healed me.*

*So here I am at the end of the second leg of this great journey called life, ready to begin again. I have so much joy and peace, and most of all I have hope. I don't wake up burdened with this sense of heaviness anymore, and if I do, I know what to do with that feeling. It doesn't ruin my day or control my life. My eyes shine bright, where once they were glazed over and dim, and I have learned to relax a little.*

*God has put dreams into my heart again. He has given me courage to pursue my dreams, and most importantly, He has given me a desire to serve him. I have been given the wonderful opportunity to continue with Teen Challenge here in Graham, Washington as a student intern for the next 6 months. I have also been given the opportunity to continue in working at Sound Life Church alongside the Music Director, Tina Carpenter, and the office staff.*

*I am so excited to see all God has in store for me, but I am equally thankful that He hasn't revealed everything to me yet. He only gives me what I can handle. God has used Teen Challenge to reach down to me to teach me how to reach up to Him. He has showed me this year with his unconditional, powerful love this past year. Please rejoice with me, for I once was lost, but now I am found. (Luke 15:24)!*

*We received this letter from Rebecca earlier this month and wanted to send it to each of our friends. Your support of Teen Challenge is a partnership with Rebecca. In the last five weeks we have completed 20 residents here in Milwaukee. This has been our largest graduating class ever. Because of our larger enrollments we need your help today more than ever!*