

“On the Up Side!” by John Hernandez

I’m John. I grew up with my single mother and my sister. We moved around a lot and I’ve been through many different schools.

Growing up, I found it hard to make friends. It got to the point I didn’t even care to make friends anymore because I figured we were just going to move again.

I started smoking weed in 9th grade and that quickly became an everyday lifestyle. It led me to do any drug I could get my hands on. I moved out of my mom and stepfather’s house when I was 18.

When I was 19 I committed 6 burglaries to support my habit and luckily I got caught.

I was facing a lot of prison time. This scared me so I decided to let go of my old friends, comply with the courts and get a job. The judge gave me grace and gave me \$11,000 restitution and 3 years probation.

I stayed clean for about 9 months and then started drinking socially. This unfortunately led me to drink every day. Alcohol also led me to seclusion. Often times, I drank alone.

I got an OWI when I was 20. I violated my probation four times by drinking and got revoked. I ended up doing 7 months in Polk County which is where I got saved. When I got out, I thought I was strong enough to have a drink, but that quickly led to the same vomit I was in before I went to Jail.

I used to wake up miserable not wanting to get out of bed. I knew the day would be the same as always and yet I would roll over and grab the bottle right away. I didn’t have the will to live.



I prayed to God for a miracle and just 3 days after that prayer, He sent someone into my life who had graduated from Teen Challenge.

Now, I recently graduated Teen Challenge and I am no longer an alcoholic because I have been covered by the blood of the lamb.

I praise God that He set up a safe Faith based program where people can get clean from their old ways and learn how to deal with life’s problems the right way.

God has given me hope, a future and a solid foundation. One scripture I stand on is 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old is gone, the new has come." Praise God!!!

On February 6, 2010, Sarah Platt with Fox 6 News visited us and featured Teen Challenge on their segment **"On the Up Side."** If you are interested in viewing this segment please visit:

<http://www.fox6now.com/news/witi-100303-car-donations,0,6013150.story>



2010 Teen Challenge Charity Golf Outing



Special Host Mr. Tom Pipines, Fox 6 Sports Director

Silver Spring Country Club
N56 W21318 Silver Spring Drive
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

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