



October 10, 2003

Monthly Newsletter

“In fifth grade my life was flipped upside down.”

by Adam Powell

My name is Adam Powell and I am twenty years old. I entered Teen challenge on June 6th. Since entering Teen Challenge God has blessed me in so many ways.

I now know that God has had his hand on my life since day one. Even though I have done so much wrong in my life God has picked me up and set me on solid ground. He has freed me from my sins, and through his son Jesus Christ he gives me strength everyday.

I was born in South Korea, and I have never met my biological parents. All I know is that they were young and not married. In Korea it is not socially acceptable for a couple to have a child without being married. Usually, if a woman becomes pregnant, and is not married she either commits suicide, has an abortion, or just leaves the baby somewhere.



By the grace of God my birth mother gave me up for adoption. Eight months later I was in the arms of Sanda, and Peter Powell. They were praying for a child, and finally after many months God had answered their prayers. Three years later God answered their prayers again and gave them a beautiful daughter named Sarah.

My parents have had a strong faith in God, and have told me many times throughout my life that God has big plans for me. I was told over and over again that I needed a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. So, I did everything I could to please my parents.

In fifth grade my life was flipped upside down. I had a paper route and my sister would come along with me everyday. She did one side of the street and I did the other. Well, one day she ran across the street without looking and was hit by a car. She died instantly, and at the time it felt like I did too.

I remember standing in someone's driveway in complete shock, and at that moment all the innocence and ignorance of being a child left me, and I was filled with anger, depression, and sadness. No longer did I want to hear about God, or what he had for my life. My outlook was; I could die at anytime and I don't care.

I started struggling in school I had no desire to put forth any effort. Still I managed to get by with what I learned in class. I also got into drugs which helped temporarily relieve the pain. My parents thought I had an attention deficit disorder because I would act up in class, and get into fights after school. They later discovered my problems were from the drugs.

I did whatever I wanted, I had total disregard for any type of rules. This lifestyle came easy to me, and at the time I enjoyed it. When I got to high school, parties, girls, drugs, and alcohol was my main focus. I was suspended many times from school, and I had to many times plead with the board members to let me stay in school.

I ended up getting through school, and wanted to start college. I dropped out after the first semester I couldn't handle going to school hung over every morning. My parents were furious and told me I had to move out. For six months I lived on my own, I got into harder drugs and partied hard every night.

Eventually I ran out of money and asked my parents if I could move back in. They said yes, but you have to follow our rules. It worked out for about two months until I started bringing drugs into the house, and again not caring what my parent's rules were. God was about to give me a huge wake up call.

My parents heard about Teen Challenge through a friend, and thought it would be good for me. I completely disagreed, and hated the idea of going into a year long program. I got into my car and drove off. That's when the Holy Spirit convicted me. I broke down crying, and I could feel God tugging at my heart.

I came home and told my parents that I very much needed Teen challenge. My parents were happy that I made the right decision.

When I got to Teen challenge I was met with a lot of love from the other students, something that I did not expect. Right away I could see how much God was working through the program. Since being at Teen Challenge God has filled me with a new found joy, and peace in my life, something that could only be given to me by Jesus Christ.

The Lord continues to work in my life everyday through the wonderful staff, and all the students. God has given me an understanding and direction in my life. He has restored the relationship between me and my parents, and he has given me a new outlook on life.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Adam is now in the second phase of the program in Rehrersburg, Pennsylvania. Good job Adam!

United Way Donor Choice Program

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