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YOUR GIFT OF GIVING IS INVALUABLE!

"We thank you for each gift you've blessed Adult and Teen Challenge with. You all assist the team to stay the course and keep THE LIGHTHOUSE operating.

I read the story of a pastor speaking on giving. He actually removed his coat, laid it on the altar and many of his parishioners followed his example.

They distributed those coats to those in need that winter day.

How do the scriptures challenge us to accomplish the GIFT OF GIVING? As I've read Galatians 6:1-10 – to me, the key verse is nine.

The occasionally challenging lesson is how much more (of 'whatever')

should I give? Our Biblical guidelines for giving - cheerfully, joyfully, the widow's mite, from a heart of abundance – all establish standards resulting from our blessed lives.

"My experiences with Adult & Teen Challenge (as of April 2017 – the new nationally registered name)

Continued on Pg 2

A LIFE IMPACTED BY YOUR GIVING

I'm a 35 years old Okie. I grew up in the church and knew about the Teen Challenge ministry. Immediately after high school graduation depression took over my life - fueled by my parents' divorce - and resulted in crack and cocaine dependence the next two years.

Thankfully, I found Teen Challenge - a place of refuge. I was asked to stay on as their cook after finishing the program. Friends from that ministry stayed in contact with me and helped me while my dad fought a losing battle with cancer.

I got involved in the A/G School of Ministry and became a licensed minister but allowed my license to lapse. I relocated to work at yet another Teen Challenge but, I had hidden sin in my life - an addiction to pornography. A student saw it on my tablet and Teen Challenge offered me Restoration but a personal legal issue surfaced and I left Teen Challenge and moved back home with my mom and step dad. As soon as the legal matter was resolved, I determined to get back into Teen Challenge - and here I am at Teen Challenge of Dallas' Lighthouse!

My goal is to do what I need to do so that God's calling on my life can be realized. I have just finished the book NOT A FAN which encourages us to be a true follower of Christ which involves daily dying to ourselves and taking up our cross. That's where I am in my walk today thanks to the restoration that is going on in me here in Teen Challenge! *'Thank you for giving to the Lord... I am a life that has and is changing!'*

- Zac

THE GIFT OF GIVING Continued from Pg 1

...challenges each of our leadership team to daily live by the biblical standard: SERVICE ABOVE SELF - where giving includes time - energy - resources - whatever is necessary - to accomplish the unfinished TASK.

During multiple experiences we caution each other to be aware of the pain those around us are experiencing. Paul urged us to reach out to the needs of other (Gal. 6:9).

I'm sure you're wondering: 'How are your investments distributed'? We often find ourselves determined to reach out (Service Above Self) and help someone who is desperate for help. When we fail to see improvement right away, our resolve can weaken. The Apostle Paul urges us to be patient in helping one another through the stumbles and struggles of life. Paul writes *'Carry each other's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ'* (6:2) - a comparison to the task



The multi-media team arrives...

of discipleship - extra time and waiting for the changes like a farmer has to wait for the harvest.

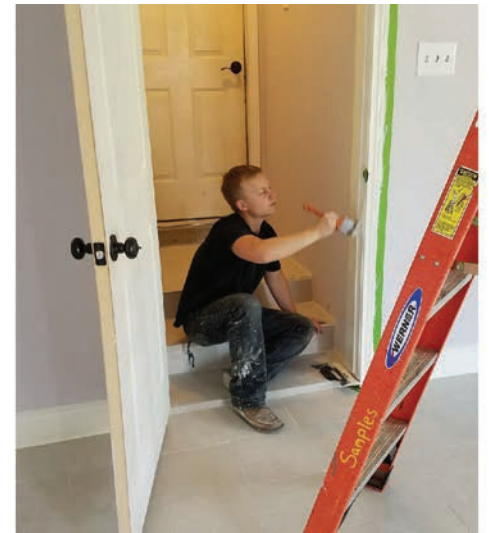
How long should we wait? We must take time to trust Him. Winston Churchill used just three words to challenge some graduates: **NEVER GIVE UP!** Let's keep hope and persevere as we continue reaching out to others!

In prayer, we call on God 'Who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine' (Eph. 3:20). Please take some of your precious time to agree with us in prayer to continue the challenge.

Continue your GIFTS and encourage others to help us through prayer and giving. We have big challenges before us. Now in our 36th year I know there are still many lessons to experience and learn.

Thanks to each of you all...

Paul and Linda, The Team and the Students



Hope those weren't his church pants...



TEEN LIFE CHALLENGE GRADUATION BANQUETS

JULY 14

Crossroads of Life A/G
(Gymnasium)
123 W. Highway 67,
Duncanville 75137

JULY 21

Family Cathedral of Praise (Sanctuary)
790 Windbell Circle,
Mesquite 75149

JULY 28

Freedom Life Church
(The Rock)
2435 E. Hebron Parkway,
Carrollton 75010

TIX \$1250

(Check with your local church office to purchase tickets!)

Seats Are Limited! All Tickets Must Be Purchased In Advance! No Tickets Sold At The Door!
All Dinner Lines Open at 6:30 P.M.



One plants, one waters...



We can do this the hard way...



...or the easy way.



SPECIAL NOTE:

If you have an 'EXTRA' \$575,000 to ASSIST our Lighthouse Residence Indebtedness - I will sing a solo (after the crowds have left) during the 2017 District Council. Thanks for Praying & your Past Generosity.

- Paul and Linda Ecker

THANK YOU!

...**To the Pastors & Churches** where TLC ministered during March. We appreciate your hospitality and look forward to the next opportunity. Thanks for telling others...

...**the Blessings of Volunteers** who help with office details... they faithfully come every week!

WHO WE ARE...

Texas Teen/Life Challenge (The Lighthouse in Desoto), is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, faith-based ministry, supported by area churches, businesses and individuals. Currently we have many partnering churches and individuals that support us through prayer, donations and volunteers. We appreciate and need all the support we receive as we work to liquidate our LIGHTHOUSE indebtedness!

HOW 2 HELP?

We have a continuing need of **Oven Cleaner, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent** and **SAM'S Gift Cards** to purchase "convenience foods" for lunch on class days.

A NEW WAY TO BLESS TLC!

APPROVED / SIGNED BY CONGRESS... ANOTHER CREATIVE WAY TO BLESS TLC

(and save you taxes!) If you are 70-1/2 or older, you may request the trustee of your IRAs to annually transfer up to \$100,000.00 tax free of your Required Mandatory Distributions (RMD) to Teen/Life Challenge, an "approved" 501(c)(3) NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION. The funds must be transferred directly by the IRA trustee (bank or investment company) to Teen/Life Challenge in order for it to be tax free to the donor. We suggest you talk with your accountant / financial adviser who will be able to walk you through the process.

SHOP AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way to support TeenLife Challenge. Go to the "While You Shop" page (link found under the "Support TLC" button on teenlifechallenge.com) and use the "AmazonSmile / TeenLife Challenge of Dallas Inc." special link. Select TeenLife Challenge of Dallas, Inc. as your charitable organization. Amazon will now donate 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to TLC!

DONATE WITH PAYPAL!

- Through the Teen/Life Challenge web site - Go to www.TeenLifeChallenge.org
- Find the Donate Tab and Follow Instructions provided there!
- You will be able to donate through Paypal... Mastercard, Visa, American Express, Discover, or your bank are available.
- You may also leave a note such as Building Fund or use as desired

NEED HELP?

1. Call 214.824.6181 to discuss your situation. Ask for Paul. If I'm "active", I'll get back to you later. My objective is to give others the opportunity to receive Christ.
2. If you live within 1 hour, you will be requested to come in for an interview in Dallas or Desoto.
3. If you live over an hour from these locations, you can order the application packet - \$25 - complete and mail in.
4. If the choir is scheduled in your area, you will be invited to attend the service and an interview can be scheduled after the service.

NOW SCHEDULING CHOIRS FOR 2017

We are a North Texas District "Home Missions" ministry. Call Shelby by 214.881.5699 to schedule a choir and speaker. YES... we are anticipating Wednesday evenings and/or other special activities. We will size the choir and our part to your schedule.

THANKS!

Shop with your KROGER NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR card or ALBERTONS COMMUNITY PARTNER card, and a portion of your purchase price can go to support TLC. Don't have a card? Call us today! Thank you Kroger & Albertsons!

