

# GraceNewsletter



Rescuing Youth From The Drug Epidemic Since 1958 | Established 2014 in TAS | Tanya Cavanagh Executive Director | JUNE/AUGUST2015

Email [tanya@teenchallengeutasmania.org](mailto:tanya@teenchallengeutasmania.org)

ABN 44 591 123 605

## A cry for help...

Welcome to the very first Teen Challenge Tasmania newsletter. Honestly, I wish we never had to publish this and that you would never have to hear from us at all. Unfortunately our communities are absolutely plagued with lost and broken people rapidly being destroyed by the drug trap. Leaving many others affected by the side effects: crime, relationship destruction, property damage, mental health issues, injuries and even death.

5 years ago my husband Peter and I answered a calling to move to Tasmania (return home in Peter's case) and minister to youth and families, affected by addictions. We have been helping people enter rehabilitation and sending many to Teen Challenge centres on the mainland, even some living in our home. In 2014 we were led to begin Teen Challenge Tasmania Inc and with it bring significant HOPE to families. Teen Challenge is an international organisation with 1100 centres in over 108 countries and has the highest success rate internationally, with a documented success rate of 86%\* for those that complete the program.

Prevention is a major focus for Teen Challenge and whilst we are busily working to establish a centre here in Tasmania, for Adolescents, Men, Women & Children, we are organising prevention forums for High School Students on the realities of the Drug Life, so they can make better choices and "Say No to Drugs" as they understand the real life consequences. Really bringing HOPE to our future generations.

Please enjoy our publication and particularly the hope & freedom that can be gained from the drug trap through Teen Challenge and pass this on to someone you know that needs help. God Bless

\* (Aaron Bicknese, The Teen Challenge Drug Treatment Program in Comparative Perspective, 1999, Illinois Northwest University)

Teen Challenge Tasmania Inc Founders husband and wife team  
Tanya Cavanagh (Executive Director) & Peter Ferrall (Director)  
Peter has over 28 years experience with Teen Challenge WA  
which has been saving young lives for over 30 years.



## From Great Battles...

The ICE crisis is destroying young Tasmanian lives and families. Daily we receive referrals and calls from desperate families not knowing where to turn.

Darcy is one local example a young man who at 13 left home and began his life of "couch surfing" and making bad choices that resulted in a life of crime, addiction and despair. Often living rough in deserted buildings within our City of Launceston, Darcy was getting so entrenched in the drug culture, he was heading fast into a permanent life of crime or even death, his life was spiraling and he had no control at

all, his life was a mess until a conversation told him about a different place, a place of hope and he grabbed his chance....



(Cont'd over)



**SAY "NO"**  
**TO DRUG & ALCOHOL**  
**ABUSE**

**DRUGS...COOL?**  
**DONT THINK SO!**  
**This is real life**

This montage shows a young girl, arrested for the first time at 16yo. Then drug addiction took over her life. She was arrested 12 times in a 14 year period. These photos show her decline over that time and by the last photo, she is almost unrecognisable. Her sad life came to an end at 30yo, just after she was released from prison.

**Teen Challenge Tasmania brings**  
**Say "No" to Drugs Prevention Forum**  
**to our High Schools ...read more back page**

# ...come Great Victories

(cont'd front page)

My name is Darcy, and it was on the 26th of May 2013 at 17 years old, that I entered the Teen Challenge program, in Esperance, Western Australia. After 3 years of living under the influence of drugs my life was a total mess.



Prior to my arrival at Grace Academy I had spent many months living on the streets of Tasmania's towns and cities. That meant sleeping wherever I could find shelter, whether that be youth hostels, under bridges or inside abandoned buildings. As life seemed to spiral out of control, my Youth Justice Worker suggested that I go to Teen Challenge W.A. At that time I was serving one of my many stints in Juvenile detention. Upon my release from detention, I couldn't keep away from my old life no matter how hard I tried.



I slipped back into old habits, doing drugs, hanging with my old friends, committing crimes and so I found myself back in court again. As a result I was sentenced again and this time the Judge gave me a chance and sentenced me to a minimum of six months at Teen Challenge, W.A. It wasn't easy to leave my home town and friends to enter into a very strict, daily timetabled program on the other side of the country, where I knew no one. But my life was so out of control, I was willing to give anything a go.

When I entered the program I got paired up with my mentor, Dan. He really helped me to come to grips with what was going on in my head and help me gain my feet there. Two months into the program with help from Dan, I made the most important decision of my life in accepting Jesus, as my Lord and Saviour.

It wasn't all easy, I got myself dismissed from the program as a consequence of my behaviour, after four and a half months. I returned back to Launceston feeling better because I had been off the drugs for so long, but coming back into my old town without finishing my training, I realized I wasn't equipped yet to make it on my own. Fortunately I'd learned enough to bring positive people into my life and with their help and encouragement, I applied to return to complete the full twelve month program and fortunately I was accepted back.

I returned with a new purpose and graduated in early 2015 at 19 years old, and returned home here to Launceston. If it were not for God and his endless grace in my life and Teen Challenge, I don't know where I would have ended up, not a day goes by where I don't thank Him for all He has done.

I'm now doing really well, my relationship with my family is restored, I've surrounded myself with a positive group of friends, I've got a great job and I'm volunteering at PCYC. I've been trying to help some of my old friends realize they need help and I really want to help get the message through to other kids like me that they can turn away from the path they are on and there is a better life waiting for them. God bless you all.



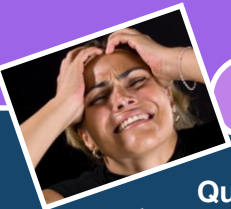
Darcy winning the TCWA Freedom Walk/Run last year. He has won so much more by the Grace of God - he has won his life  
"Run with patience the race set before us" Hebrews 12:1

## I WAS OUT OF LOVE, OUT OF TRUST

## OUT OF THE WILL TO LIVE

### Quotes from Teen Challenge Students:

*I was blinded by my **selfishness** and focused on my **negative circumstances**  
I was a **broken man** living in a **horrible existence** in a dark world I had **created for myself**  
At the **age of 10** I had started **smoking cigarettes and pot**  
I entered a **destructive relationship** and a **lifestyle of drugs and violence**  
I attended the Teen Challenge **Day Program** while on the waiting list which provided a time of great comfort in an otherwise **hopeless existence**  
I was **nervous** when I arrived at Grace Academy but I had a **strange peace within me**  
I felt like a **huge stone** had been **lifted off my life**  
Grace Academy provided me with a **safe haven** so I could work through my **pain and confusion**, learn to **ask for forgiveness** and to **forgive myself** and begin to **walk in hope with God my Shepherd**  
Once I was **blind** but now I **see clearly***



# "MY LIFE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED!" SAYS 16 YEAR OLD BETHANY

## BRIGHT FUTURE



*"I will never forget that day in 1999 when I entered the Teen Challenge program down a long driveway, 16 years ago. I was addicted to drugs, scared about my future and lost in a world of hopelessness. I honestly did not think that I would survive another year of my life, and neither did my family. But by the grace of God I got my second chance and so much more."*

*Together with my family - my husband of (almost) 12 years Tristan and my three precious children and our growing ministry - I feel like I am one of the richest women on the planet."*

*Jade Lewis*

*"My name is Bethany and for most of my life I've struggled to fit in. At age 6, doctors told me I had ADHD and at age 15 I was diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder. For years I had been dealing with drug use, depression, an eating disorder, self-harm, sexual abuse and suicidal behaviours. I had been hospitalised more times than I can remember. I arrived at Teen Challenge on 28th September 2014. Since starting the program, my life has been transformed! Not only have I found my independence, I've also found my smile again! I now have a genuine love for life. God has rescued me out of the darkness and into His glorious light. I've been in the Teen Challenge program for nearly seven months now. I've reached phase 3 and am looking forward to graduating. After finishing the program I hope to work as a mental health nurse so I can help others in my position. I truly believe that God has set me free and I know that He will continue to set others free as well!"*



*After visiting her daughter, Beth's mother had this to say:  
"How do I put into words this weekend with Beth  
It was simply amazing to see her*

*The smile in her eyes  
The love in her heart  
The confidence she has  
The positivity she shows  
The energy to succeed  
The faith she holds*

*The beauty we have always known, that she now feels in herself.  
Beth is truly making the most of TC and I am so incredibly proud of her.  
She wants to live and is looking to the future, looking for how she will make a difference and inspire others in life.  
Little does she know, she already has..."*

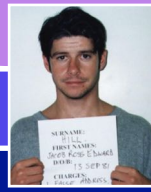
## Jacob & Melissa's Whole World Changed



Jacob and Melissa were both caught up in the cycle of drug addiction before they found hope at Teen Challenge. They graduated, Melissa in 02 and Jacob in 04 and both became staff members, marrying in 07. They now Pastor Grace Church and are involved with the Day Academy, Grace Care and Alumni groups. "My world was once a very dark place" Jacob says "but with the Grace of God Teen Challenge reached out and changed my world - for ever! It is now our privilege to help change the lives of others and help guide them onto the road to Freedom & Success".

"Recently, Melissa and I had the extreme privilege of taking our two young sons on their first visit to Grace Academy - where our lives were changed by the Grace of God and where Melissa and I first met.

It is a Teen Challenge tradition that a tree is planted to represent the life of every young person who enters Grace Academy for help. We have both planted a tree in this grove,



representing our lives and over the years Melissa has documented the growth of her tree. During our visit she was able to add more photos to her collection that already told an amazing story."

The Avenue of Success can be seen from the air at Grace Academy, Esperance WA. The trees can be seen through the Grace Chapel windows as a wonderful reminder of each student that is now living free.

The students can watch their trees grow and become strong, as they have grown and become strong in the love of God

Teen Challenge Tasmania will continue this tradition in Grace Academy Tasmania when it is established for our own home grown success stories of beautiful people living free from the chains of addiction through the Love and Grace of God.

# STAY FREE SAY "NO" to DRUGS Prevention Forum

That old adage "prevention is far more powerful than a cure" has never been truer, particularly in the war on drugs. Teen Challenge Tasmania are bringing a Drug Prevention Forum to Northern Tasmanian High Schools in Term 3. The forum will have representatives from the fields of Youth Justice, Prison & Detention, Police, Medical, Mental Health and Teen Challenge graduates deliver to the students real life scenarios and facts about the effects of drug use.

It is our intent to show the students the real consequences of entering into drug use, so they are better equipped to make educated decisions when they are faced with a choice to take substance and fully understand where those choices may lead them. The life stories of the Teen Challenge students are especially engaging for young people.

As one teacher in WA said about a presentation by Jacob "I found his ideas easy to follow, well structured and very authentically presented. He was so effective. It was so good to have someone who was himself and didn't perform, use humour as a manipulative tool or try to present a cool image. His honest point about drugs having a nice effect to start with created some of the respect students had for him and also his qualification that you can survive drugs; but his body has been negatively affected were also telling."

Either Jade's or Jacob's (Teen Challenge Graduates) book depicting their own life story will be part of a Stay Free Say No Pack given to participants of the Forum



Watch this space for updates soon.

## " Young Tasmanians are Pleading"

**We Don't want FREE Needles!**

**We Don't want FREE Drugs!**

**We WANT to be FREE! Please HELP us!**

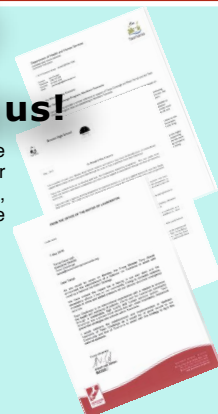
Teen Challenge has been setting Tasmanians Free at its Mainland centres over the past 5 years. The need is growing and community leaders are seeing the need for more here in Tasmania for our young people. We now need a Tasmanian Centre, Grace Academy together with Teen Challenge Prevention Programs to provide hope for our future generations.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please help provide the Academy where young people are set free and given a second chance. Where Hope Lives and Where Dreams are restored.

Teen Challenge Tasmania Inc is registered by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission

**GIFTS OVER \$2 ARE FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE**



*"Whilst Caring for youth and families in crisis in TAS, I am very aware that you cannot reach out to the unreachable and change their Destiny without the vital input of Financial Partners."* Tanya Cavanagh, Founder and Executive Director

YES, Tanya, we want to help young lives to be restored so that they can be a blessing to family and society

#### THANK YOU

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$..... FOR REMEMBERING US

☐ My Cheque is enclosed - Made payable to **Teen Challenge Tasmania Inc**

☐ Please charge my Visa/Mastercard

Expiry Date ...../...../..... Signature.....

Name: Mr / Mrs /Ms.....

Address: .....

Phone:..... Postcode:.....

DONATIONS TO TEEN CHALLENGE BEING UNCONDITIONAL ARE GST FREE  
GIFTS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

#### Teen Challenge Tasmania Inc Contact Details

##### Head Office:

PO Box 453 Launceston TAS  
7250

##### Tanya Cavanagh

M: 0412 300 850

E: [tanya@teenchallengetasmania.org](mailto:tanya@teenchallengetasmania.org)

##### Peter Ferrall

M: 0418 915 681

E: [peter@teenchallengetasmania.org](mailto:peter@teenchallengetasmania.org)

##### Website:

[www.teenchallengetasmania.org](http://www.teenchallengetasmania.org)

Direct Deposit : NAB : BSB 087 728 : Account 24 294 4960

For Tax Purposes please phone or email us your deposit details. Donor ID's for deposits are also available upon request.