

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

Dear Pastor,

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your support since the time of our last newsletter.

As you will see from the newsletter there has been a huge amount happening in Teen Challenge SA:

- Baptisms
- Changes to our Living Free Men's Intake Program (previously at Whitmore Square)
- Training in Certificate IV in Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs substances
- First Aid Mental Health Workshops
- Inductions for new Living Free volunteers
- Church visits through TC Sundays
- Innovative fund raising events such as the "Ride 4 Rehab
- Forged partnerships (e.g. ReLink Football Competition)
- Re-launching of the Living Free Women's Program
- Celebrating student graduations
- Growth and relocation of the TC Chapel
- Development of mission opportunities for the Living Free students
- Refurbishment of the Teen Challenge Counselling Centre

Even through the floods in Queensland and the Global Financial Crisis you have continued to financially support Teen Challenge throughout these hard times. In a time where every charity is chasing the public for much needed donations you have continued to demonstrate faith in the work and ministry of Teen Challenge. For this I am extremely grateful!

One of the legacies that Pastor Morrie Thompson left with Teen Challenge was his vision for 3,000 people to donate \$30 per month via the 3000 CLUB. This has been the main source of funding for Teen Challenge since I was blessed to have been handed the responsibility of taking the Teen Challenge forward. Although we have a long way to go to reach 3,000 people, we are on our way. Please continue your support, encouraging others you know to become 3000 CLUB members.

I am pleased to report that due to your regular donations we have been able to survive a fire (which burnt down our Mt Barker branch) and the closing of the street for our Murray Bridge Centre (due to a major shopping redevelopment). We have also been able to keep the Living Free Program going at Elizabeth, acquiring a newly renovated facility for the relaunched Living Free Women's Program (which currently has our first two participants). This was one of the greatest milestones in the last year. With a handful of very dedicated volunteers a centre for the Women is now a reality.

At this point it is also important to note that the Living Free Men's Program currently has a total 10 young men participating, being healed and growing. With referrals now coming from churches, the general public and lately, the prison system, and government departments, we have seen significant growth in student numbers. This

demonstrates that Teen Challenge is building a good reputation with people outside of our church communities. A special thanks to our professional trainer Mrs Louise Holly and all our volunteers who serve sacrificially in looking after these young people. Additionally thanks must go to Mr David Helyard who has championed the cause in managing the Living Free Program and taken it to fantastic new levels of confidence and security. Well done David!

Another exciting initiative has been to witness the redevelopment of our Teen Challenge Counselling Centre in Salisbury. This has attracted fully qualified counsellors to donate their time, assisting families, friends and students within the Living Free Program. I am pleased to announce that this momentum has led to two smaller Counselling Centre initiatives, one being from a church in Victor Harbour and the other from our new premises at Gilberton.

Last but not least of many new and exciting things happening at Teen Challenge is the securing of a lease from Hope Church of their building at 11 Park Terrace, Gilberton. This is where we hold TC Chapel services on Friday evenings and you are all welcome. This is also where we will provide offices for staff of Teen Challenge and develop outreach strategies. In addition this is where a dream of mine to establish a Bible College for the Poor will be spawned. I am pleased to announce that the Teen Challenge Bible College (TCBC) will begin 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 (see our website for more details).

From this facility we have already run three First Aid Mental Health training seminars, had great times of staff devotions and conducted Bible Studies. This will also be where our newly appointed Youth Pastor Mr Matthew Vandepier will assist young people to learn from God's Word every Monday night. Matthew not only volunteers at our Living Free Program as an overnight carer, he also heads up our Service Excellence Quality Improvement Program.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Board and Members of LCHSU for their financial and in kind support of Teen Challenge throughout this last year. It is great to see ministries working together for the Kingdom of God without agendas getting in the way. Another such Kingdom partnership is the Teen Challenge and "Container of Hope" partnership. This partnership will encourage our students in the program to support mission fields overseas.

Thank you again for your support both financially and prayerfully. May God bless you all this Christmas and may He continue to bless this ministry in 2012.

**Yours in Christ**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Ross', written in a cursive style.

**Graham Ross**  
Executive Director  
Teen Challenge SA Inc.