

Greater Piedmont Adult & Teen Challenge, Inc.

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New Beginnings

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The Keith Waegerle Family

I came to Greater Piedmont Adult & Teen Challenge in 2011, as a new believer, and I graduated the program in April of 2012. I surrendered my life to Jesus in my friend's basement after hearing the prompting of the Holy Spirit. God had been warning me in dreams and I had been struggling to submit. But, when I finally did, I instantly found the Holy Spirit leading me and convicting me. He was usually leading me out of temptation. I had abused alcohol and drugs for the last ten years of my life. Although I had grown up in church, I didn't want anything to do with God.

After surrendering to Christ, I was very excited and found myself fighting for Jesus and turning from drinking and the sexual immorality I had been enslaved to. I had a difficult time giving up marijuana, my preferred drug. I had a desire for Christ and to do His will, but I also realized I had no idea how to really be a Christian. At my mom's suggestion, I decided to enroll in Greater Piedmont Adult & Teen Challenge to receive the discipleship I needed. Had I not entered Teen Challenge, I would not have lasted long in my new faith.

Having grown up in the church, I experienced God as young man, but I left God's path. I was now far from being the man God originally called me to be. So, **when I entered Teen Challenge I was serious about getting right with God.** Our schedule was full. We began early each day with breakfast and then went to the prayer room for a time of personal prayer and to sit under staff members or local pastors. Then we moved on to the classroom for Bible-based curriculum, which further taught us the Word

of God. This helped us with our emotional and spiritual development, and also taught us practical wisdom for life. We worked on personal studies that challenged us to face the reality of our sin, as well as ensuring we made decisions which enabled us to succeed in Christ, after we completed the program.

While in the program, there was also a heavy emphasis on scripture memorization. The first bible verse I memorized was 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. Behold the old has gone, the new has come." We learned from not only our counselors, but also directors and other leaders who had previously lived lives in drug addiction and crime. Not only does Jesus forgive us of our sins, but He truly does make us new. I was given hope in Christ and the Word of God. We learned to work as a team and work on interpersonal relationships. In personal and corporate worship times, I experienced God's presence in my life and heart in such powerful ways. **His love really broke my hard heart of stone.** He truly healed my heart. I was baptized in the Holy Spirit.

One night, God performed the Holy Spirit's work in my mind, in my heart, and in my spirit. I woke up at 7 a.m. a new man. I had experienced God in such a way I could never go back to my previous life of drinking, drugs, and immoral lifestyle. I encountered God's love in such a way that He also put to rest much of my animosity and anger towards God. I used to view God as a harsh dictator. I often questioned why He would send people to hell. After that, I began facing a lot of spiritual battles. Teen Challenge was the perfect place to be able to do this, because it is an incubator for new believers. Being at Teen Challenge allowed me to fight the battles I needed to fight and face my failures, my faults, and my weaknesses. I learned to face the consequences of my actions. I was becoming who God had called me to be. I was finding out that God can put things together and even work impossible things out for our good.

Upon graduating from Teen Challenge, I went through a semester at another discipleship program. There I reunited with a Christian friend who I knew previous to Teen Challenge. We began dating and got married. Less than a year later, we had our first child. We both had a desire to pursue missions, but were uncertain of the specific direction and timing. Rachel

11th ANNUAL IRON CHARIOT RIDE

JUNE 4TH, 2022



NEW LOCATION:

Select Cycle
430 N. Eugene Street
Greensboro, NC
\$25 Rider, \$5 Passenger

Registration: 9:00 a.m.

Kickstands up: 10:00 a.m.

Ride ending at Teen Challenge for luncheon!

served as a full-time children's ministry assistant at our church, but after our 3rd child she stepped down from that position. I have served in various roles in kids' ministries for the last ten years, as well as leading small groups and taking ministerial credentialing and licensing classes. There were several times we started pursuing the opportunity to go into the mission field, looking both at US and foreign missions. Each time, we did not have peace to move forward.

Two years ago, we talked with our mentors and close family members who are in ministry. We felt like it was the right time for us to pursue missions. God directed us to minister in a lay capacity in our community. The next year was full of COVID, shut downs, and race riots. Personally, we began facing increased struggles which God used to reveal to us that we were not in His will. We were NOT at peace. **God reminded me that His call for missions was in fact real**, as I had doubted previously.

I reached out to several different missionaries through the Assemblies of God World Missions just to see what opportunities might be available. We were not sure what would come of it, but we knew we needed to take a step of faith. The missions committee responded that they had just been speaking with a pastor in Romania who needed help with children's ministries. She asked if we would be willing to talk with him? So I gladly said yes. Over a series of face time calls we began to develop a relationship with him. As I sit here writing this, we are now sitting in that missionary's home in Romania, on our first trip to visit the team we are now approved to serve with.

To God be the glory. I want to thank Greater Piedmont Adult & Teen Challenge for helping me get grounded in His word and finding my true peace with God.

If anyone is interested in signing up for our newsletter, visiting our page, or donating to Waegerle family missions, you can do so at www.lovingromania.com.

It's so amazing what our God can do, if we submit to His will and leading in our lives. I am in awe at what God does in the lives of the men who allow God to totally and radically transform their life. Oh, what a mighty God we serve! His love is beyond our understanding and His ways are higher than our ways. I rejoice with the Waegerle family. I thank God for taking this broken vessel and repairing, restoring and renewing him into a missionary who will bring hope and healing to others through the love of Jesus Christ. Thank you for being part of what God is doing in the men who come to us for hope.

*Because of Calvary,
Dr. Bob Harman*

Thank you to everyone who gave to the HVAC unit for our thrift store. All the monies needed came in. We used some of the extra monies and paid for a new washer/dryer for our Dorm 2, Re-entry Program. They have been needing a new unit for a while now and the guys are very excited to have this new washer/dryer. Thanks for helping us take such good care of our students. Our donors ROCK!



Greater Piedmont Adult & Teen Challenge is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.