

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"The Judge Asked, "And What Changed Your Life?"

By Pastor Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Church, Norton

Randall Veach lives in Nashville, TN. His mother raised him in church, however, he refused to surrender his heart and life over to Jesus Christ. He was a rebellious teenager and had a violent temper. Years of the party scene and bar fighting had left him broken, empty, and addicted to drugs. All of his teen years were wasted searching for the ultimate high. His life of sin did not help him find what he was looking for. The drugs, clubs, alcohol, and women just sent him further into an angry state of depression. The lures of the world, the passions of the flesh and the deceits of the devil were unable to fulfill their promises of a better life. He could no longer face his family.

At age 26 he found himself standing in front of a judge facing an array of charges including intent to sell cocaine. He was caught also trying to smuggle drugs into a federal prison. If found guilty he would have been facing a maximum 20 years in federal prison.

Randall's attorney had heard of the powerful ministry of Teen Challenge, but he had never met anyone who had gone through this Christ centered ministry. The District Attorney wanted to provide Randall with the opportunity to complete the program. So Randall was given the opportunity to go to Teen Challenge of the Rocky Mountains with

the understanding that he must complete the program and then return to court.

While in jail Randall accepted Christ as his personal Savior and Lord. It was then at Teen Challenge where he learned how to become a true disciple of Christ. After eleven months of being at Teen Challenge of the Rocky

Mountains in Denver Colorado, Randall can now face his family and he writes, "My entire life I felt hopeless and hollow. Now I am overwhelmed with joy and hope because I have met Jesus. Because of the miraculous transformation that has happened in my life I have no choice but to tell others about Him. Man,

what an awesome world we would have if everyone knew the fullness of a life with Christ as his or her Lord and Savior."


Randall made it through the Teen Challenge ministry program and went to his court proceedings in Nashville, TN. The judge asked, "And what changed your life?" Randall said, "My Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!" He went on to say "I have been an addict most of my life. In jail I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. Teen Challenge allowed the discipleship to take place in my life."

The judge asked him about his addiction. Randall told her that in Teen Challenge the problem is viewed as a sin problem rather than a disease and holds the individual accountable. The judge reduced all the charges and imposed a sentence of 11 months and 29 days of unsupervised probation.

This is an open door for Randall to pursue the call of God on his life to become a missionary!

Many have found the forgiveness and faithful deliverance from the bondage of sin through Jesus Christ. Come and hear others share their testimony of Christ's love working through Teen Challenge at Living Word Church or Community Full Gospel Church.

IT ALL ADDS UP



Life doesn't always add up...no matter how hard we try. Can we deal with bad situations without becoming bitter and discouraged? There must be a way to make sense of it.

We can accept the fact that there will always be times that try us; we can also be comforted that God knows of our frustrations. "When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who know my way," exclaims David in Psalm 142:3. Our Father in Heaven knows the trials of humanity. He also knows that our faith can grow strong in times of trouble when we trust that He is in control.

Life is not an exercise in futility. It is a lesson in faith. When life doesn't seem to make sense, you can count on God. Worship Him this week. It all adds up.

Sunday Micah 1.1-16	Monday Micah 2.1-13	Tuesday Micah 3.1-12	Wednesday Micah 4.1-13	Thursday Micah 5.1-15	Friday Micah 6.1-16	Saturday Micah 7.1-20
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