

Greater Piedmont Teen Challenge, Inc.

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NEW BEGINNINGS

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My name is Jarrod Lee. I was born in Cleveland, Ohio, February 24, 1987. Soon after my birth my mother and father moved to Youngstown, Ohio. In 1999, we moved to Greensboro, NC. Home life for me was very positive and loving. I have two older brothers, a sister, and a

little brother. We were all close growing up and everyone had a positive impact on each other. In spite of the distance that stands between us, we all still love each other very much.

My experience with drugs and alcohol came around age 18. Prior to my curiosity with drugs I loved playing sports, being creative, and music. Before these talents had a chance to progress, I pursued drugs. Alcohol was my choice. I liked the way it boosted my energy level and gave me the courage to do or say things I normally wouldn't. It made me feel strong, powerful, but in the end, led me on a road of destruction.

I look back over my life and I ask, **“When did I lose my passion? What made me choose alcohol?”** I remember in ninth grade year I played on the freshman basketball team at Rayen High School, in Youngstown, Ohio. My plan was to play Junior Varsity and then Varsity. I had a pretty good freshman season but after the season I had to move to Greensboro. Even though I was devastated about having to move, Youngstown, Ohio is a very rough place and it was better for us to leave. I tried out for the basketball team at my new high school in Greensboro and I did not make the team. What made me so upset was I did not even get an opportunity to show what I could do. I was the new kid and the coach let the varsity handle tryouts and it became a “buddy, buddy” type of tryouts. I had worked all summer, night and day, and it was all over in a moment. Just like that I gave up on my dreams of playing college and pro ball.

Playing sports was what motivated me to get good grades and go to class every day. Many kids around me were smoking weed and drinking but because of my dream, I knew those things were not for me. So there I was, 16 years old with no identity, no dreams, and no goals. It wouldn't be long before my downward spiral in life took place. My journey to find myself introduced me to a life of drugs, crime, and imprisonment. Pain, failure, and disappointment became a normal part in my life.

A big part of me wants to keep hope alive for that 15 year old kid chasing hoop dreams, but after so many years of heartache and pain I knew it was time to let that kid go, let the failures of yesterday go, and become a MAN. At 30 years old I found myself with four wonderful children, engaged and still bound in sin. Then I heard of a Christian program called Teen Challenge. It was the perfect opportunity to redirect my life in the way God intended it to be.

During my stay at Teen Challenge, God showed me my true purpose in life. He allowed me to see that my life is not just about me. God wants to use me and all my mess to bring glory and honor to Himself. I have found a new identity, an identity that is not subjected to how well I do something or how much I have. It's an identity that is rooted in Jesus. In Jesus are the victory and the success I always longed for. **As I looked back over my life, it wasn't basketball that I was passionate about, it was acceptance from something greater than myself; acceptance from something worthy and noble, and in spite of all the things that seem to fit that category there is only one thing that will truly fit that description and that is Jesus.**

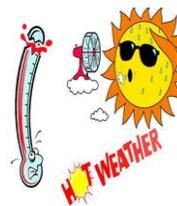
As Executive Director, I was privileged to be Jarrod's mentor. It was the first time I decided to be a personal mentor and Jarrod was the right student for me. We shared a lot of fun times, lunches, serious talks and hopes for the future.

Jarrod knew coming into the program that he had to be serious and make every day count. He could not "play games" as some like to do. He worked hard to get the most out of the program, learn as much as he could about the Lord, and prepare for his future as a Godly man and father. Jarrod was a great student leader in the house amongst the other students, and a man who gave of himself to others. When there was an opportunity to minister Jarrod was right there. He was part of the team who worked with Samaritan's Purse to do tornado recovery. He gave his testimony as we visited churches, schools and civic groups. He shared his musical gift in chapel and played a serious game of horse shoes. To sum it up, Jarrod was a huge blessing to Teen Challenge the seven months he was with us. I am proud of this young man and I know God has a great plan for his life. Luke 19:10 (NIV) says, "For the son of man came to seek and to save the lost." He sought Jarrod out and saved him from his addiction. To God be the Glory, great things He has done.

Dr. Bob



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We have a **HUGE** need. The heating and air unit in our dining hall has given out. It is has served us for many years, but it would be almost as much money to fix it as to purchase a new one. The estimated cost to replace it is **\$9,000.00**. This is an amount we cannot comprehend, but our Lord is able to provide. **We know we can share this need with our partners and you will come through for us.** For the time being, we are using two window air units so the men can still cook and eat in the facility. Once we have the funds allocated, we will order our unit. Thank you in advance for letting the Lord use you to help with this urgent request. God bless you!

Our 7th Annual Iron Chariot Ride

went great. Even with threats of rain all around us, we never had a drop during our entire event. The riders came back to Teen Challenge for lunch and listened to the Teen Challenge choir, student testimony, and enjoyed great fellowship with the students. We would like to thank our organizers and our sponsors:

- Mike & Theresa Williams
- Kevin & Annie Campbell
- Gladwell Insurance**
- Foreign Cars Italia*
- Jam's Deli**
- Harris Teeter**
- Krispy Kreme Doughnut**
- Fresh Market**



Dr. Bob, Mike Williams and Kevin Campbell



Grandover Golf Tournament sponsored by:



This year's tournament will be held September 8, 2018, at Grandover Resort in Greensboro, NC. Cost is \$1000.00 for a team of four and includes cart fees, breakfast, a wonderful lunch, awesome prizes, great fellowship and fun.

Join us as we raise awareness and support for Greater Piedmont Teen Challenge.
Go to our website to download the registration form.
www.gpteenchallenge.com

For more information call Debbie at 336-292-7795 x 303 or Lorna at x 300

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