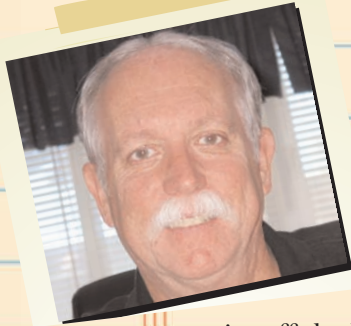


# Teen Factor Ministry Comments

June 2009



## Director's Column

I was out shopping for dinner the other day and picked up some baby Bok Choy that was a little wilted. I knew, however, that I could take it home

trim off the bottom, put it into a little water and it would firm up. It dawned on me that our teens are similar; we just need to add God's water to their life and they perk up.

Sadly though, teens need more support with their ongoing issues than just a little water. While I believe God can help in all circumstances, teens find it almost impossible to be clear-headed when the influences that surround them remain unchanged. SAMSHA reports that of the more than a million teenagers admitted into drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs every year, 80% are unable to maintain their sobriety after returning to their home, school and old peer group.

Most of those treatment centers are secular in nature and do not tell how Christ has the power to heal. Teaching teens about God enables them to come out of their misery and receive real transformation.

*"Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence."*

(Psalm 27:11-12 NIV)

Teaching a teen is an awesome responsibility. Whenever I have the opportunity, I'm always reminded that without God's help everything I say is only noise. I'm always humbled when a teen is touched by God through the words that come out of my mouth.

About three weeks ago I had the opportunity to share my story with the youth group at Seneca Creek Church. I was honored to share and blessed to hear that my story touched their lives. Even more powerful than that, was the realization that some were preparing to reach out to their friends who are



struggling. It's a blessing to know that teaching the way of Christ never goes forward without authority from Him who gives without the mindfulness of man.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill".

William "Bill" Wheelhouse  
Executive Director

## Land Campaign

Since Teen Factor became incorporated in 2004, the long-term vision has always been to operate a group home to meet the needs of at-risk teens. The opportunity to make that vision a reality is here. After much prayer and beginning the due diligence process, the Board of Directors unanimously approved placing an offer on land in Ijamsville, Md.



*The farmhouse pictured here would be the main facility for Teen Factor upon some renovation inside.*

The 32-acre property is a farm located in Frederick County, just outside of Urbana. It boasts a large farmhouse with a wrap around porch, two ponds, an Olympic size swimming pool, several barns and a garden shed. The property has been in foreclosure since January 2009.

Although the home is not in mint condition, it has tremendous potential to meet the needs of Teen Factor. This is where your help is needed.



*Shown here is one of the barns and the garden shed just past the main farmhouse.*

A \$400,000 loan will be taken out to help finance the property. An additional **\$350,000** will need to be raised in **90 days** in order to finish the financing and get the property up to par.

The board has estimated that initially, upon loan approval and fixing up the home, four slots for teenagers would be available within a few months.

While this is a big step, it is also exciting. **We desperately need your prayers and financial support to raise the remaining \$350,000.** Also, please share the news with your friends and those in your churches. Your partnership and financial donation isn't just for Teen Factor, it is for a teen who needs your help. This facility will allow us to renew and restore at-risk teens.

You can donate online via PayPal at [www.teenfactor.org](http://www.teenfactor.org) or by sending a check made out to Teen Factor, PO Box 2415, Montgomery Village, MD 20886.

## Helping A Teen

"J" is a 17 year-old who has an issue with drugs and anger. His family has multiple financial and relational issues. He has also has been arrested on

several occasions.

J started coming to the small recovery groups in March of last year at the request of one of his youth leaders (who brought him every week). Just after he started coming, he was arrested after an altercation with an individual whom he attempted to attack. As part of his probation, he was required to attend Teen Factor's small group.

About the time J's probation ended, he fell off the radar and stopped coming to small group. While keeping in touch with the youth leader who brought him, we recently found out that he was arrested again, this time for drug possession with intent to sell. J has been told he will probably do some serious time behind bars. Needless to say, J is in real serious trouble; however, God is always working.

J is considering enrolling in Teen Challenge where he will be able to get the help he needs and have the opportunity to complete his education. If he completes the program, he will have the opportunity to get his life together and not serve any jail time. Please keep him in prayer as his story is still unfolding.

This story is just one of many that illustrate the importance of a local ministry like Teen Factor. Teens in Montgomery County desperately need God and need our help. We have the opportunity to make a difference right now and for the future.

As you read earlier, we are placing an offer on land in Ijamsville, MD. The only thing standing in the way of making this vision a reality is \$350,000. In order to move forward with the offer, we need to **raise that \$350,000 within 90 days.** Please prayerfully consider how you can donate and partner with us in this process. We greatly appreciate all the gifts and donations you have already given.

We know that God is greater than any economic troubles there might be, but we also know that we cannot do this alone. Please partner with us to purchase this land and to save a teen.

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Teen Factor is a private, nondenominational Christian outreach ministry incorporated as a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization in the State of Maryland. Formed in 2004 and based in Montgomery Village, Maryland, the organization is committed to rebuilding the lives of troubled teens in our community by providing the finest training, treatment, and care available within a Christian framework. We are also dedicated to building supportive family environments so teens can be reunited with their families. For more information visit [www.teenfactor.org](http://www.teenfactor.org).