



# focus

ON DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

## Encouraging students to love “the least of these”

*Inner-city discipleship program changing lives*

Lewis Green  
ChristianWeek Correspondent

WINNIPEG, MB—The Vineyard School of Justice is bringing together people from all walks of life to foster a love for people society would call “the least of these.” In the process students are learning to love themselves as well.

The school is a seven-month discipleship program based

in the North End of Winnipeg where people from the streets learn alongside those who have never known homelessness. Together, students learn about God and explore social justice issues.

Along with learning in the classroom, school director Suhail Stephen says students participate in various justice-related activities outside the classroom. They visit panhandlers in Winnipeg’s

urban neighbourhood and try panhandling themselves to understand life on the street.

Students also take field trips to visit organizations like House of Hesus, a home for those living with HIV/AIDS, during a unit on justice and the love of God.

In addition to hands-on education in social justice, students say they are finding healing through the community at School of Justice.

Patrick grew up as a residential school student. As a child he was physically and sexually abused and found solace from the pain through abusing substances.

“I hated the church. I hated what the church was. I hated the people in the church. I hated God. I hated myself. I hated everybody,” he says. “The only thing I didn’t hate was my addictions.”

*Continued on page 17*



A unique seven month school run by Winnipeg Centre Vineyard that provides a safe and focused environment where those from the street and those who are not learn together as friends and explore what it means to love God and love our neighbour.



OCTOBER 2015 - APRIL 2016  
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[vineyardschoolofjustice.org](http://vineyardschoolofjustice.org) | [facebook.com/VineyardSchoolofJustice](https://facebook.com/VineyardSchoolofJustice)

# Ruined for consumer Christianity

*Discipleship training programs challenge students to examine their role in the Church*

Craig Macartney  
Senior Correspondent

As students reflect back after a year in a discipleship training program, it's easy to see how their experience has been life transforming. Their time spent in community living, surrounded by other believers studying God's word and exploring His plan for their lives, is often filled with spiritual highs.

But after students graduate, the challenge becomes how to apply what was learned and effectively engage secular Canadian society as disciples of Christ.

"Integration of faith is a subject that comes up a lot," says David Warkentin, director of the Praxis program at Columbia Bible College in Abbotsford, B.C. "It's about recognizing the role of faith outside your stereotypical spiritual practices, seeing that your career, family and everyday life are just as important a context for your faith to form who you are."

Warkentin says they joke at the

college that discipleship training "ruins you for a normal experience of church." He explains that as students grow, they learn to recognize the factors impacting secular and Christian cultures and are challenged to not simply be consumers in the Church.

"The experience looks at your role. Rather than what you take from church, what do you give? We're encouraging them to ask where they belong in a faith community. That's where they experience some tension, in realizing that it calls for them to connect and get involved."

Ryan McNamara, graduated from Emmanuel Bible College in 2008, and says his time at Emmanuel helped him place much higher value in engaging his local church.

"Since this program was so influential in my own life, part of my vision is to bring that experience to the local church. No matter what employment context I find myself in, I will always have a close relationship with a local church."

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# 05

## FAST FACTS

*Bible colleges, universities and discipleship training programs from across Canada share with us FIVE unique facets of the experiences they offer.*

### URBAN SANCTUARY'S MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

[urbansanctuary.ca](http://urbansanctuary.ca)

Edmonton, Alberta

1. Face-to-face mentorship with a real person that can continue for a lifetime.
2. Experiential learning material that not only explains the "why" but also demonstrates the "how".
3. The deep formation of seven spiritual habits that will keep the student spiritually productive.
4. Regular and supportive accountability.
5. A flexible and ongoing online option to continue learning and interacting with mentor.

### VINEYARD SCHOOL OF JUSTICE

[vineyardschoolofjustice.org](http://vineyardschoolofjustice.org)

Winnipeg, Manitoba

1. Intensive seven-month discipleship school to foster a passion for loving God and loving your neighbour.
2. Educational model of teaching (reflection), doing (action), and being (relationship).
3. A safe and focused environment where your classmates are actually neighbours from the North End.
4. In a one-of-a-kind community with extraordinary relational, educational, and spiritual benefits.
5. Students spend one month in Nepal living, learning, and serving with the Himalayan Region Vineyard Churches.

### CAPERNEWRY BIBLE SCHOOL'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

[capernwray.ca](http://capernwray.ca)

Thetis Island, British Columbia

1. Biblical teaching.
2. Leadership training.
3. Community living.
4. Personal discovery of Christ as Life through discipleship.
5. Spectacular island setting.

# Students encouraged to step into Jesus' lifestyle

*New discipleship school seeks students who hunger for more*

Steven Sukkau  
ChristianWeek Staff

ROCK LAKE, MB—A new discipleship program in Southern Manitoba is hoping to equip students to live out a supernatural lifestyle of power and love.

School of the Kingdom's campus is located along the shores of Rock Lake, Manitoba, two and a half hours southwest of Winnipeg. "We're the Navy Seals of Christian schools," says director Tyler Franz. "We're not going to have hours of teaching on hearing God's voice and not try it ourselves."

Right now, Franz says many Christians are afraid to pray with strangers, to learn to hear God's voice and act on it. Overcoming that fear starts with knowing who you are in Christ, he says.

"We don't want to see Christians bound up in fear," Franz says. "That's why we have an intense teaching phase. If you are not willing to be stretched, or challenged, this isn't a school for you."

Those points fulfill the school's motto of "Becoming love, moving in power," because as Franz

explains, "Belief in God matters when you do what you've learned." He says he fully expects and looks forward to healing, miracles and people coming to Christ during the school's outreach times.

Along with an emphasis on miracles and a genuine love for people, the school's outreach focuses on North America rather than overseas. Franz says the goal is to teach students to live out their faith in the midst of people they live and work with everyday.

"Going to India for a short-term mission won't prepare you to live the rest of your life in Southern Manitoba," he says.

So far, there are eight students signed up for the school's first year. The school offers a six-month semester, beginning September 12, 2015 and running until March 4, 2016.

Phase one is focused on lectures, spending time learning to follow Jesus' example of living a Kingdom lifestyle. The lecture phase is three months long, and each week a different speaker leads students through a new topic. The days also include regular worship times, solo study as

well as living in community and street outreach.

Once a week, students are encouraged to engage in their interests to connect with others and bring Jesus to that part of society, whether it's through photography, snowboarding, youth ministry, worship or other activities.

Franz says it's about harnessing natural gifts and passions.

"If you love skateboarding, you will naturally do it when you leave," Franz says. "We want to teach [students] how to be Jesus in that passion... in the spheres they naturally gravitate towards."

After the first three months, students begin a two-month outreach phase, travelling across North America speaking to people about God's love for them.

The final month is a time of debriefing, preparing students to incorporate what they've

learned into their regular life after graduation.

"Some schools have a few days of debrief, we have a month," Franz says, adding it's a crucial time to prepare to reenter society.

"It's about setting up students to be able to do all they've learned on their own," as they go back into their churches, families and communities, says school leader Janessa Klassen.

In the end, Franz hopes the School of the Kingdom is more than just a six-month experience, but that students continue to build their relationship with Christ upon leaving the school.

"It's a school for people who are hungry, who want more," he says. "It's a step into the lifestyle of Jesus."

*Learn more about the School of the Kingdom at the Becoming Love conference, or by visiting [kingdomschool.ca](http://kingdomschool.ca).*

## Discipleship in the great outdoors

Prairie College

Established in 1998, Prairie College's Wilderness and Leadership Program blends strong academics, leadership development and discipleship training to encourage growth in confidence, character, community and faith. After 17 years in Montana, the program is heading north to Nordegg, Alberta and will take advantage of what the Canadian Rockies have to offer. The program, nicknamed Explore, includes one-year certificate, two-year diploma and four-year degree options that build upon one another.

"Typically, students come not knowing what to expect," says program co-director Dennis Landon. "They are drawn to the program because they are looking to grow in their faith and are drawn to the mountains," he continues, "but they are challenged and changed through biblical education, interpersonal growth and stretching themselves in the various outdoor activities."

While the program splits time equally between Prairie College (Three Hills, Alberta) and Frontier Lodge in Nordegg, students also have the opportunity to experience "the great outdoors" in other locations. Second-year students participate in a 21-day trek to Death Valley, California, while fourth-year students embark on a summer elective course in Central Asia that includes hiking in the Himalayas, meeting nomadic people groups and learning about adventure tourism and business as mission. Graduates from the last 17 years are successfully employed in the outdoor adventure industry, churches and camps as well as small and large business. Many have also pursued masters and doctoral degrees at graduate school and seminary.

[www.prairie.edu/explore](http://www.prairie.edu/explore)

[www.prairie.edu/sport](http://www.prairie.edu/sport)

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f y t i @PrairieColleges | Three Hills, Alberta



Natalie Hamm, a 2013-2014 student, panhandles in Winnipeg's urban neighbourhood to better understand life on the street. Photo by Suhail Stephen

Continued from page 8

After enrolling in School of Justice, Patrick says he was forever changed after being exposed to the ministry and work of L'Arche Winnipeg, an organization working with people with intellectual disabilities. "I used to laugh at them," he says. "But the love that they have for people, it was the best part of the year for me. Living on the streets I know what it's like to have people look down on you and think you're worth nothing."

Unlike Patrick, fellow student Natalie Hamm grew up in a white, rural, upper-class family and was raised in the church. However, she says her experiences of loss and pain led to her own struggles.

"My childhood may have looked different [from Patrick's] but we are all human. I lost my dad to depression and suicide which led into part of a struggle to an eating disorder that I battled for a few years," says Hamm. It led her to wrestle with some deep questions.

"I have often had the thought to

not give money [to panhandlers] but then looked at Scripture in Matthew where it says, 'whatever you do unto these you do unto me.' If Jesus was to ask me for money, wouldn't I give Him everything?"

Kirby grew up on a native reserve where drug and alcohol addiction was a part of everyday life. He says he found God and the school because he slept behind the church one night and came in when he heard the music the next morning.

Students like Patrick, Hamm and Kirby range in age, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic standing, and marital status, but say they are finding community together. They are discovering justice starts with recognizing everyone has something to learn from each other.

"I can't imagine having a school where different kinds of people were not welcome," Stephen says. "That is what [God's] Kingdom looks like, that all those dividing walls get broken down."





# GO FURTHER.

Mile Two is a new 8-month discipleship school focusing on biblical study, experiential learning, and seeking God.



**BIBLICAL STUDY**

**URBAN MINISTRY IN WINNIPEG**

**TRIP TO ISRAEL**

[www.MileTwo.ca](http://www.MileTwo.ca)

Providence Campus, Otterburne, Manitoba

## HERITAGE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY'S SERVE PROGRAM

[discoverheritage.ca](http://discoverheritage.ca)

Cambridge, Ontario

1. Two semesters of academic training followed by a six to seven week overseas ministry trip.
2. Four of 10 courses (12 credit hours) directly focused on Intercultural Studies.
3. Strong emphasis on spiritual formation as well as team development.
4. One-on-one mentoring, with the mission agency personnel.
5. Participation in the annual Heritage Missions Conference.

## MILE TWO DISCIPLESHIP SCHOOL

[miletwo.ca](http://miletwo.ca)

Otterburne, Manitoba

1. Urban Ministry – See Scripture come to life as you obey the call of discipleship in your community.
2. Biblical Study – Learn to model the life of a disciple of Jesus in your everyday life.
3. Intentional Community – Support and walk with others who follow Jesus.
4. Land of Israel – Read the Bible in full colour as you walk where Jesus walked.
5. Go Further with Mile Two.

## CMU'S OUTTOWN

[outatown.com](http://outatown.com)

Winnipeg, Manitoba

1. Cross-cultural Travel – half of the time is spent in international locations .
2. Discipleship – learn to follow Jesus through mentoring and community living.
3. Community – cultivate new friendships with fellow students and local partners.
4. Adventure – dig deep and take risks in fun activities, learning, and service.
5. Knowing God, knowing Yourself, and knowing the world.

## KALEO

[kaleo.ca](http://kaleo.ca)

Vancouver Island, British Columbia

1. We offer a small cohort for close learning and community.
2. We provide a full first year of academics that is transferable to Briercrest College.
3. We give students practical experience by helping them plug into one of our local ministry partners.
4. We create space for students to have fun and explore the beauty of B.C.'s raw outdoors.
5. We enable students to be give and serve in one of our missions opportunities.

# Studying the gospel in the class and in the field

*“It was so impacting being able to see poverty face to face”*

Craig Macartney  
Senior Correspondent

STONE CREEK, ON—Discipleship programs prove invaluable to help students explore the Bible and better understand the Christian walk. For many students, however, one of the crowning experiences of their discipleship program are the outreaches and mission trips.

“Gospel For Asia’s School of Discipleship was one of the most impacting years of my life,” says Lisa Neufeld. “The classes challenged us in our walks with God and the trip was a huge highlight that complemented the whole year.”

At the end of her program, Neufeld spent two weeks travelling around southern Asia, meeting a number of Gospel For Asia’s (GFA) indigenous missionaries, visiting persecuted churches and seeing a slum of five million people. She says coming face to face with extreme poverty affected her so much she was not even able to cry.

“We hear statistics and stories, but seeing it makes it come alive. There was so much packed in that two weeks, I feel like I’m still learning from my trip. It has made me look at my life differently and be content with small things. After seeing the poverty, even walking into a clean bathroom makes me thankful.”

Susan Whitman, who works with GFA’s students, explains that the program has a unique

emphasis on missions as they help the students grow in their walk with God. She says throughout the year, the students learn about mission work, but when they travel to southern Asia, a lot of the ‘how’ and ‘why’ questions get answered.

“They visit the actual places and see how the love of Jesus is being shared in a practical way. They also have the opportunity to ask the missionaries questions about anything they’d like. It’s an incredible learning experience.”

Beyond the overt benefits of the overseas trip, Whitman says there is another goal. She says they hope to inspire students with a renewed vision for reaching the lost and sharing the gospel through missions, but also at home.

Other programs seek to instill the same passion through emphasizing the opportunities at home. Christina Main, who is majoring in counselling at Emmanuel Bible College, says her studies have impressed upon her the need to serve tangibly in her community.

“Class is all about the theory. We learn about what works in an ideal situation and how one response elicits a different response. These are important concepts to grasp, but through participating in outreaches I learned about engaging with real people, in the real world, who are hurting and need a hand.”

Last year Main worked as Regional Missions Coordinator at Emmanuel, organizing groups among her fellow students to



Lisa Neufeld visits with children enrolled at a Bridge of Hope Centre that serves a slum of five million people.  
*Photo by Lisa Tam*

volunteer at local charities and running outreaches to share God’s love in the community.

“I grew up as a missionary kid in South America, but I find it funny when we say we need to go to other areas to do ministry. One highlight of the outreaches we did

at Emmanuel was volunteering in the English as a Second Language class at a local middle school. Right now there are many immigrants coming into Canada from all sorts of faith backgrounds. The mission field has literally been brought to us.”

## REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAMS

redeemer.ca  
Hamilton, Ontario

1. Week-long courses on Foundations of Discipleship and Youth Culture and Spiritual Formation.
2. Shared learning with a group of mature students coming from a rich array of ministry and teaching experiences.
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## MILLAR COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

millarcollege.ca  
Pambrun, Saskatchewan

1. Two campuses to choose from, Pambrun, Saskatchewan and Sunnybrae, B.C.
2. All students are intentionally placed with a mentor for each college year.
3. Bachelor of Biblical Studies program examines each book of the Bible in depth over the three years.
4. Students learn how to use outdoor skills (skiing, mountain climbing etc.) as a platform for ministry.
5. Edge Athletic Teams at Pambrun allows our students to compete at a high level in intercollegiate sports.

# Teachers transform Nicaraguan communities

EduDeo Ministries

Pablo is a trained lawyer, but he knows the immense potential Christian education has to impact his country of Nicaragua for Christ. He currently serves as the executive director for ACECEN, an association of Christian schools in Nicaragua that partners with EduDeo Ministries, a Canadian Christian mission organization.

ACECEN provides training and mentoring to a network of 95 schools from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds, encouraging them to support one another by sharing resources and expertise. At the same time, essential relationships are built and school leaders are able to uphold each



Nicaraguan school children in class.

Photo courtesy EduDeo Ministries

other in prayer as they work to be a shining light for Christ in their communities.

Pablo says mentoring is a big part of ACECEN's mandate as the association works to train key

facilitators who focus on training groups of teachers to also train others, creating a fascinating ripple effect that has spread throughout the Nicaraguan education system. This has allowed ACECEN to

impact more than 900 teachers, who in turn have reached more than 24,000 students!

"This kind of impact could never be made working only with students," explains Pablo. While EduDeo Ministries' mission is to advance Christ-centred education for children worldwide, it often works with teachers to make a difference in the lives of children and their families. The success of EduDeo's partnership with ACECEN can be seen through stories of teachers who live out their calling to serve and mentor not only their students but the surrounding community as well.

Read stories of teachers making a difference at [edudeo.com/get-inspired/teachers](http://edudeo.com/get-inspired/teachers).

# Sharing the hope of Christ in Zambia

The brokenness in this world can be daunting. Heartache and pain, sorrow and suffering, injustice and hopelessness are everywhere.

EduDeo Ministries seeks to bring the hope of Christ to the world through quality, Christ-centred education. It's focus is on children, the leaders of tomorrow. Research suggests many people make a decision for Christ before their 14th birthdays.

Philemon is a program officer for the Education Department of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) in Zambia, a core partner of EduDeo Ministries. He is an inspirational example of transformation.

"It was difficult for Dad and Mum

to send me to school because Dad was unemployed," he says. "Mum started her own business, selling items at the market and selling cooked meat from home.

"When I was in Grade 9, my dad died and Mum went to the village. Even though I was selected to advance to Grade 10, I could not afford to continue my education because of the school fees. It was a hard struggle.

"By God's grace, I received sponsorship support from CCAP to complete secondary school. After graduating, I prayed to God, saying, "Lord, give me something to do to give back!" That is when I met Reverend Peter Chipeta and began to work for CCAP. Now, when

somebody says, 'I don't have school fees, I know how it feels. Please join me in prayer for God's intervention in the lives of many more children like me.'

Philemon is a beautiful example of a child who was impacted by the prayers and support of others, and in turn became a leader who is impacting others. He is a passionate advocate for the Sponsorship Program at EduDeo Ministries because he knows firsthand how effective it is.

In his words, "I'm looking forward to this program growing so that more vulnerable children can access Christian education!"

Learn more at [edudeo.com/sponsorship](http://edudeo.com/sponsorship).

## ABOUT EDUDEO MINISTRIES

- Works in more than seven countries
- Partners with more than 1,000 schools
- Impacts more than 5,500 teachers
- Touches the lives of more than 200,000 children

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**COLUMBIA BIBLE COLLEGE'S QUEST PROGRAM**

[columbiabc.edu](http://columbiabc.edu)  
Abbotsford, British Columbia

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2. Intentional mentoring and spiritual direction from a multi-generational leadership team.
3. Adventure experiences (tall-ship sailing, canoeing, hiking, skiing/boarding, cross-country skiing, rock climbing).
4. Strong academic focus on digging into God's word and applying it to life.
5. A unique approach to discipleship training that encompasses all of life, no matter what context.

**PRAIRIE COLLEGE'S OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP STUDIES**

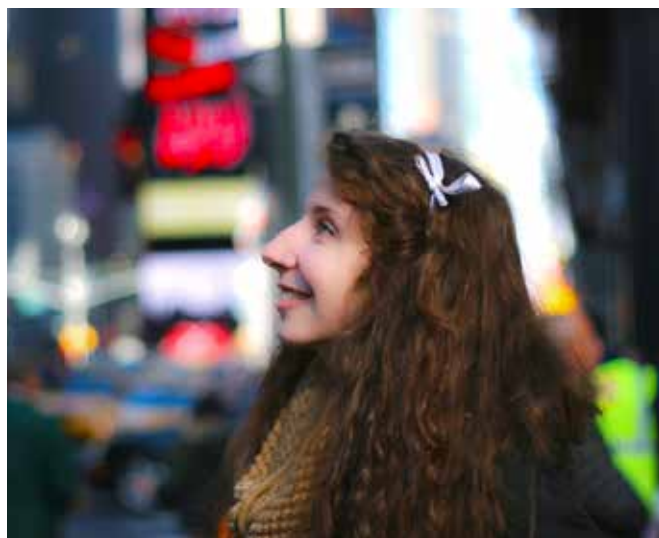
[prairie.edu/explore](http://prairie.edu/explore)  
Three Hills, Alberta

1. Biblical education combined with wilderness adventure.
2. Leadership development transferrable to future ministry and career.
3. Small group participation allows for strong relationships and support.
4. Emphasis on employable skills for the outdoor industry.
5. Outstanding location in the Canadian Rockies (Nordegg, Alberta).

**NIPAWIN BIBLE COLLEGE**

[nipawin.org](http://nipawin.org)  
Nipawin, Saskatchewan

1. Significant focus on God's Word in the classroom and beyond, with regular time spent in staff homes and one-on-one.
2. A close-knit community of only 45-75 students growing together.
3. OUTPOUR Weekend; a unique off-campus opportunity once per semester to serve alongside fellow students/staff.
4. Staff led 7/24 discipleship groups (four to five people) meeting each week to walk through life together.
5. 110 acres of beauty along the Saskatchewan River valley.



Discipleship students are discovering the power of the Gospel to transform the world.

*Photo courtesy Praxis Urban Discipleship*

*Continued from page 9*

Jesse Zak found his experience at Praxis caused him to re-evaluate his life goals. Initially he hoped to become an engineer and make money. Now he is looking into careers in counselling and social work.

"Coming into the program, I was more focused on my personal successes and what I wanted to do rather than what God wanted. Praxis taught me to focus on engaging communities around me. I'm hoping I can pursue something in youth work, maybe as a high school counsellor in a secular school. I feel I could connect with the students and be a good

support."

Joshua Wilhelm also found discipleship training pushed him in a new direction. Following the encouragement of one of his professors, Wilhelm is preparing to move across Canada to attend graduate school, and eventually hopes to serve as a pastor.

"My journey through Bible college has been incredibly transformative. I came to Emmanuel very insecure about myself and the Christian faith. Through both my studies and relationships with peers and staff, I have discovered a great deal. I am now graduating confident in who I am in Christ and in the power of the gospel to transform the world."

[www.millarcollege.ca](http://www.millarcollege.ca)



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# Placing hope within reach of every addict

*New Adult and Teen Challenge ministry focusing on prison and community support groups*

*Adult and Teen Challenge of Central Canada*

Adult and Teen Challenge of Central Canada is well known for its residential Christ-centred discipleship programs. But what about those who are struggling with addiction and are not ready, or unable to make a year-long commitment?

Adult and Teen Challenge aims to answer the question with Teen Challenge Community, an extension of its discipleship ministry via non-residential support groups in churches and prisons throughout the region.

“We have the tools to help people affected by addiction, and we want to help more people,” says executive director Steve Paulson.

Addiction affects a wide spectrum of the population, as showcased in Nigel and Tom, the two newest graduates of the program. Nigel is a young man who abused a variety of drugs including crystal meth and cocaine, together

with his father and sisters. Tom is a married 63-year-old who was an alcoholic when he joined the Adult and Teen Challenge program. Thanks to the discipleship they received, today both Nigel and Tom are living free from addiction.

Teen Challenge Community has already launched in several jails with the assistance of trained chaplains. The small group method will be starting in churches throughout Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario later this spring.

Adult and Teen Challenge of Central Canada has been helping those with addictions for 20 years, continuing its goal of putting hope within reach of every addict. And they are excited to celebrate that anniversary by making it easier for everyone to find real freedom in Christ.

“We’re going to multiply the number of men, women and children we reach with



Outreach pastor Terry Thiessen and chaplain Alan Campbell lead a weekly Teen Challenge Community group at Milner Ridge Correctional Centre.

*Photo courtesy Adult and Teen Challenge*

Jesus,” says Clayton Arp, a Teen Challenge graduate who developed the Living Free curriculum.

*For information on starting a Teen Challenge Community group in your church, and to hear Nigel and Tom’s stories firsthand, visit [teenchallenge.tc](http://teenchallenge.tc).*

*Teen Challenge Community*

**HOPE** *within*  
**reach**

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**Adult & Teen Challenge**  
*of Central Canada*