

“The answer is **YES!**”



Raúl González, D.Min
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

“Are They Hurting?”

It has been said that drug abuse is the number one problem in America today. With drug abuse comes a ripple effect of crime, disease, homelessness, the breakdown of the family, violence, etc. Society sends double messages, often encouraging and condoning drug use. It has been observed that up to 80% of the prison population are there for drug-related crimes. The problem is in the schools and behind closed doors in many homes, and who can measure the pain felt by the family of the addict?

“Can An Addict Be Free?”

The keynote speaker at this year’s Youth Challenge alumni benefit homecoming banquet spoke about his former lifestyle of drug addiction and the pain that went along with it, including many experiences behind prison bars. But standing in full view of everyone present, he shared his story of being set free from addiction by the power of God! He said that after his experience with God, when people said he couldn’t do something, he got even more courage to try, because he knew that **for God nothing is impossible.**

“Is Youth Challenge Effective? Is There Hope For the Family?”

This year Youth Challenge celebrates 36 years of victory helping men, women and families overcome the devastation of drug and alcohol addiction. Youth Challenge graduates from the men’s and women’s residential centers stand as living testimonies of what God can do. The Alumni of the Year was awarded this year to The Rev. Victor Rodriguez, president of the Youth Challenge Alumni Association. Now a certified counselor with the state, he stood as yet another witness that God can transform the life of an addict, heal the past hurts of their family, and impact the entire community.

The Mayor of Hartford, The Honorable Eddie Perez, presented a proclamation honoring Youth Challenge, declaring Saturday, February 11, 2006 as Youth Challenge day in Hartford.

“Is There something You Can Do?”

Many are still asking, “Is there hope for the addict? For me? For my family?” You can **tell someone who needs to know**, “The answer is Yes!” and you can **keep giving** to Youth Challenge! **Your donations are helping people get free and stay free!** Every gift, large and small, helps get the message to another person who needs help that the answer is “Yes!” Send your reply in the enclosed envelope today. Remember, “Together we will..!”

Respectfully,



Raúl González, D. Min.
Executive Director

P.S. Get ready for Youth Challenge Family Day Celebration on Tuesday, July 4, 2006 11am - 4pm and the annual Walk-a-thon on Saturday, September 9, 2006 10am - 2pm!

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Youth Challenge of CT
P.O. Box 763
Hartford, CT 06142

*Youth Challenge 36th Annual Alumni
Homecoming Banquet*



Mayor Eddie Perez,
Bishop Raul and Lady Willie Gonzalez



Bishop John Jimenez, keynote speaker



Hartford Mayor, The Hon. Eddie Perez, presents
proclamation to Youth Challenge



Alumni Edra Knight, Rev. Victor Rodriguez, and
Rev. Tyrone Glaspie with Bishop John Jimenez



YC Alumni and Students celebrating this great event!



Rev. Victor Rodriguez ,2006 Alumni of the Year,
with
Bishop Raul Gonzalez, Executive Director



Rev. Tyrone , Director of the Ranch, with YC Alumni and Students



My name is April. I became addicted to prescription drugs after the death of my husband in a car accident. I could not cope with life after losing him. I was paralyzed with anxiety and depression. I isolated myself at home, leaving only to visit

doctors and psychiatrists. They tried to help me, but no form of treatment seemed to alleviate the pain. Out of desperation, I came to Youth Challenge Mission for Women on May 21, 2004. I was an atheist, but I was willing to try anything. Once I began to believe in God and trust Him, He started the healing process in my life. I was able to grieve over the loss of my husband and I look forward to fulfilling God's purpose for my life. Presently, I am working and will be continuing my graduate studies at UCONN.



My name is Wendell. I was addicted to cocaine, marijuana, and alcohol. My life was in utter ruins. I was on the verge of giving up. I was about to lose my wife, communication with my son, and

all hope of ever having a life again. However that was not the end, thanks to God. My mother had raised me up in church and planted the seed of the Word of God in me. A friend introduced me to Youth Challenge, and God has done miraculous things in my life. Youth Challenge allowed me the time I needed to get to know the Lord Jesus Christ better. Through Youth Challenge God has blessed my life tremendously. I now work for the ministry of Youth Challenge at the Training Center in Moosup, CT called "the Ranch". I now live in my own home, together with my wife. God has given me back everything the enemy has stolen and He has more yet to give. Thank you Lord!



Rev. Victor Rodriguez,
Recipient of the 2006
Youth Challenge Alumni of
the Year Award, President of
the Youth Challenge Alumni
Association

This award comes as a surprise and honor. I was humbled to receive such a distinguishing recognition. There is a Scripture that says "Can anything good come out of [the city] Nazareth?" **I can say, Yes!** In my past, I was a gang member and a captive to drug addiction-- my wife who has been with me for 27 years could write a book on what she saw and what she suffered. Today I am privileged to be here with the Mayor! "May the Lord order his steps." We have been able together to keep the Blue Hills detox program open in the city and advocated for progress in the renovation of the facility. Many can testify to the help they have received.

I want to thank my spiritual parents, Bishop Raul and Lady Willie Gonzalez, [Youth Challenge Executive Director and wife] for the years of help. I came here in 1984, bound by drug addiction. When I had lost everything, you opened the doors for me. Because of you I don't have to rob houses, I can buy a house. I have three daughters who are not drug addicts or alcoholics. They are successful, working and in college; one is getting her Master's in Education this year, receiving scholarships after graduating from Hartford High School. Now I'm involved in outreach to the community and together with my family, helping others!

CAN ANYTHING GOOD COME OUT OF THE CITY?
ABSOLUTELY - YES!

The recipient of this year's Alumni of the Year Award



The Rev. Victor Rodriguez
President Alumni Association Alumni

Don't be brain dead!

Ecstasy – Studies on both humans and animals have proven that regular use of ecstasy produces long-lasting, perhaps permanent damage to the brain's ability to think and store memories.

Prescription Drugs – Taking prescription drugs without a doctor's approval and supervision can be a dangerous, even deadly, decision.

GHB – GHB is used in "date rape" and other assaults because it is a sedative that can immobilize you.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Youth Challenge International Convention** • Wildwood, FL • Tues. - Thurs., July 11-13, 2006
- **Youth Challenge Ministries Annual 4th of July Festival** at the YC Bible Training Center, Moosup, CT • Tuesday, July 4, 2006 • All day!
- **Youth Challenge Summer Street Outreach** • June -- September 2006
Call (860)728-5199 for specific dates!
- **Youth Challenge Week in CT** • September 3-9, 2006
- **Youth Challenge Annual Walk-a-Thon** • Saturday, September 9, 2006 10am
Join us in our ten mile walk against drug abuse!
15-17-19 May Street, Hartford, CT
Food and Fellowship to follow!
- **Youth Challenge Graduation Banquet** Plainfield Town Hall • Saturday, Oct 14, 2006 • 6:00pm
- **Youth Challenge Annual Alumni Service** • Friday, November 24, 2006

