

# WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

September 2018

440 PONTALUNA ROAD | MUSKEGON, MI 49444 | 231-798-7927

Dear Friends,

I want to encourage you in your faith in God. In Mark 5, Jesus was near the Sea of Galilee. Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue saw Him, fell at His feet, pleading fervently with Him. My little daughter is dying, he said. Please come and lay your hands on her, heal her so she can live. So Jesus went with Him. As they were in route, messengers arrived from the home of Jairus and told him, "Thy daughter is dead. Why troublest thou the master any further?" **But Jesus said to Jairus, "Be not afraid, only believe."** Jesus went to Jairus' house and raised her from the dead.

In the same portion of scripture there was a woman who suffered much from constant bleeding. She had spent all she had on physicians and was none better, but rather grew worse." When she heard of Jesus, she came behind Him and touched His garments. For she said, "If I may touch but His clothes, I shall be whole." And immediately the constant bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. Jesus said to her, "Daughter, **your faith** has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over."

In both of these instances, **faith** was all important to victory. Perhaps you are going through something in your life where you need a miracle. **I encourage you to have faith in God.** God has good in store for you. Mark 11:22b says "Have faith in God." 11:24 says, "What things so ever you desire, when you pray, **believe** that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." **Faith in God is the victory.**

## TWO PARTICULAR NEEDS

1. 200 Chairs for our multi-purpose room at the men's center.
2. 1 vehicle replacement.



## UPCOMING BANQUETS

### MUSKEGON

**Maranatha Bible  
Conference Grounds**  
4759 Lake Harbor Road  
Norton Shores, MI  
Thursday, October 4  
6:30 p.m.

(Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.)

### GRAND RAPIDS

**First Assembly of God Church  
Gymnasium**  
2100 44th Street SW  
Wyoming, MI  
Thursday, October 25  
6:30 p.m.

(Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.)

Reservations are needed. RSVP to Nikki at 231.798.7927.

Michelle and I look forward to seeing you at one of these banquets.



## GRADUATES WHO HAVE STARTED ON THEIR FAITH JOURNEYS



Samantha Stokkers: Growing up was terrifying. I dealt with neglect, physical and sexual abuse, and suffered with so much shame and self-hatred that I turned to pain killers and alcohol.

After the loss of two brothers, my father, and then the death of my daughters' father; I realized I was headed straight for hell. Later I met and fell in love with a Godly man, a graduate of Teen Challenge. He eventually had enough of my lifestyle. He gave me an ultimatum that I took way too long to accept. Since the time here in Teen Challenge, Jesus had completely healed my heart and broken down the layers of shame. By God's grace I will serve Him for the rest of my life.

**MORE GRADUATE TESTIMONIES ON BACK**

Michelle and my life has sure been a journey of faith. But faith in God has always seen us through. God is faithful. Thanks to all of you who pray for us and give so generously each month to this ministry. Your prayer and support is a great help. May each of you be strengthened as you continue in your journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We need you. Love you. May God bless you.

Yours in Christ for the sake of the gospel,  
Phil & Michelle McClain  
Executive Director

*Phil & Michelle McClain*



# GRADUATES WHO HAVE STARTED ON THEIR FAITH JOURNEYS

CONTINUED

Curtis Gill: I am Curtis and from Coalmont, Tennessee. I came to Teen Challenge in August 2017, straight out of a big ole jail down in Chattanooga TN. They put me there during a divorce. A broken relationship that I wanted desperately to save but could not, for the simple fact that I chose drugs over my family. In 2013 I had surgery and a stay in rehab, and again in 2015 - another surgery and rehab. My life was full of shame and regret. The drugs became my escape, and I was bitter. In a year at Teen Challenge the Lord has replaced all the lies, all the deception, and all the bitterness. Today I have hope, peace, and most of all, I am filled with the love of Jesus. Never in my wildest dreams did I think life could be so bright and exciting. God's love does that for me. **Isaiah 52:7, "How beautiful upon the Mountains, are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvations who says to Zion, your God reigns."**



Sami Reagan: My identity had been so wrapped up in being a wife and mother that when my husband left, my world came crashing down around me. I looked for anything to fill that hole inside of me. Within a year, I became addicted to IV methamphetamine use. In February 2016, I was arrested for operating/maintaining a meth lab. I was released, and within a few months I was arrested for possession. I knew I had to change or I was going to die. I reached out to my chaplain, who told me about Teen Challenge. I am a completely different person. The Lord has made me whole. I am loved by Him.



Amanda Brown: I am 30 years old and from Cedar Springs MI. I grew up in an amazing home that loved the Lord, but at an early age I began to rebel. By the age of 15, I was drinking, smoking, and taking pills. I became addicted to heroin, crack and IV use, which turned into a 10-year battle with opiate pain killers and 5 years of heroin addiction. In February 2017 the Lord used the Real Women's Ministry to tell me about Jesus. In April, I was in Kent County Jail when Forgotten Man Ministries told me what could change my life. God moved mightily and brought me through the doors of Western Michigan Teen Challenge. My whole life has changed and God has restored my family. He has taught me how to love again. The scripture I stand on is **Philippians 3:13-14, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."**

Zack Dutcher: I am 25 and from Muskegon MI. I started using cocaine, pain pills and drinking at the age of 16. I used to be a fun-loving party guy, but it evolved into addiction where I hated myself. I grew cold and selfish to the people I loved. I was trying to numb the pain of past hurts that I never dealt with. I've been in and out of trouble with the courts and jails since I was 15. In 2016 I was in a drunk driving accident; and by the grace and mercy of God, we are both alive today. Since that night, I gave my life to the Lord, and He's taken me on a journey of healing my heart and allowing me to love myself and others again. **Matthew 10:39, "If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it."**



Peter Bergsma: I grew up in a loving Christian home where I was home schooled until 8th grade. In high school, I started drinking and using drugs to try and fit in. God blessed me with a good job, a beautiful wife and children, but I took all my insecurities into it. The "honeymoon" period was short lived. The next five years was a soap opera of sex, drugs, and alcohol which ended with me losing my license, my wife filing for divorce and our house being taken in foreclosure. In my misery I cried out to the Lord. He restored our marriage, gave us a new house, and two more children! Like Israel however, my repentance was short lived, and I was soon back in my mess worse than ever. I am thankful for this ministry. At Teen Challenge, I have learned to seek the Lord in all things and above all, I want to be found faithful to Him.



**Philippians 3:13-14, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."**

