

November 2018



Adult & Teen Challenge
Western Michigan

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

Dear Friends,

There is an epidemic of heroin addiction today. Many people have returned to the needle, shooting up heroin and dying. God stands by and still says, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" **Jeremiah 8:22** says, "Is there no balm (healing salve) in Gilead; is there no physician there?" Yes! Jesus Christ is still the great physician. He wants to deliver and heal the addicted drug addict. We are purposing to make Jesus known to them that they might be delivered, healed, and saved. Our evangelistic teams have been very active this year on the streets and in the jails making Christ known to the desperate. Thank God for all those that are coming to Christ and getting help through Jesus. Thank God for the many that are coming into the program and finding Christ as Lord and Savior and finding life in Him. I'm reminded of the scripture in **James 5:20** which says, "He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." We must snatch men from the burning and bring them to Christ. We are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Let us reach out to souls that are dying and bring them to Christ that they might live and have eternal life. Pray for us!

NOVEMBER GRADUATES



JAIME NEWCOMBE



ZACK ARNOLD



MATTHEW MEASLEY



WAYNE CHRISTLIEB



KATIE IBBS



AMBER ESH

GRADUATE TESTIMONY MORE GRADUATE TESTIMONIES ON BACK.

Jaime Newcombe: I am 40 years old and from Grand Blanc, Michigan. I grew up in a loving family with a praying mom and two praying grandmas. My passion in life was sports, and I played from the time I was little all the way through college. However, I dated a man with unresolved anger. In a fit of rage he pulled the steering wheel and caused my car to roll over.



I broke four vertebrae in my back which led to a severe pain pill addiction. Once the pills ran out I drank, and in the end I did both. I felt so much guilt and shame that I became suicidal. I planned to take my life, but God intervened and brought me to Teen Challenge. Since being here God has touched my body. I was a millimeter away from being paralyzed, and the doctors told me I would never play sports again. Recently we had a bike-a-thon for Teen Challenge, and I was able to ride the whole twenty-two miles. So if you are struggling, I want to encourage you to tell someone because the minute I told my story was the minute my freedom came. **1 Peter 5:10**, "After you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation."

BANQUETS

Thank God for the blessing that the Muskegon and Grand Rapids banquets were to Teen Challenge. Thanks to all of you who attended and gave to the ministry. The banquets were truly blessed of the Lord.

NOW WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE
Holland Christmas Banquet
COMING UP!

Beechwood Reformed Church
895 Ottawa Beach Road, Holland, MI 49424
Thursday, December 6, 2018
6:30 p.m. (Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.)

All of you who can, please attend. Call Nikki at 231.798.7927 for reservations. Please invite others to come with you.

Michelle and I and all the staff and students thank all of you on our mailing list for standing with us in prayer and giving to this ministry. Your faithfulness is so appreciated.

We love you, pray for you, and need you. May God bless each of you richly.

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



GRADUATE TESTIMONIES

continued

Zack Arnold: I am 30 years old, and was raised in a wonderful Christian home. During my high school years, my faith took a backseat to the world. I dove head first into the party scene and began experimenting with drugs which lead to an opiate addiction. That addiction held me in its grasps for the next 10 years of my life. Eventually I lost it all. I thank God that I lost everything because if I had not, I would have never realized how badly I needed God. With less of me there was more room for Him. I am truly blessed. God is restoring everything Satan thought he could take from me. I am forever thankful and today I stand redeemed. The scripture that I hold onto is **2 Corinthians 12:9**, “**And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**”



Matthew Measley: I am 33 years old. I grew up in a Christian home and went to a Christian school. When I lost my mom to cancer at the age of 18, I started down a path of drinking. By the time I was 22, I was doing cocaine. With drugs and alcohol I tried to fill the hole where God needed to be. Since I came to Teen Challenge, God is doing a deep work in my life through the power of Jesus. I thank God every day for where He brought me from and where He is going to take me. I will serve Him the rest of my life with all my heart. The verse I stand on is **Psalms 19:14**, “**May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**”

Wayne Christlieb: I'm 31 years old and from Ligonier, Indiana. I grew up in a Christian home but never formed a real relationship with Christ. At 18, I joined the Army where I started drinking to fit in with the guys. When I got back from a 15 month deployment, I started using a lot of crystal meth and pills to cope with PTSD, survivor's guilt, anxiety, depression, and trying to fill a God-sized hole. I came to Teen Challenge completely broken, hopelessly lost and on the verge of a divorce. For the first time in my life I started trusting God. He has totally restored my life and marriage. I now have the relationship with Christ that He so desperately wanted all those years ago when I was a kid. Christ has forever changed the way I think, act, and how I will live the rest of my life. One of my favorite verses is **1 Corinthians 15:57**, “**But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**”



Katie Ibbs: My name is Katie. I am 29 years old and from East Liverpool, Ohio. Throughout my entire life I have struggled with low self-worth, not knowing who I was or who's I was. I've abused alcohol and multiple drugs in an attempt to fill the void that is only meant to be filled with the love of Jesus. After numerous attempts to remain sober in my own strength and leaning on my own understanding, I failed yet again. On October 7, 2017, I overdosed while operating a vehicle. God used that situation to bring me to a place physically and spiritually where my eyes were opened. I learned that this is not about me, it never has been. It's all about His plan and purpose for my life. He has done

miracles in my life when it comes to restoration with my family and children. I finally have HOPE. A HOPE that will not put me to shame. A HOPE that is a strong and trust worthy anchor for my soul. For the first time in my life, I'm excited for my future. The verse that I am standing on is **Philippians 1:6**, “**Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.**”

Amber Esh: I am 31 years old and from North Muskegon, Michigan. Growing up was really rough. My mom died from drinking when I was 11, and my dad still drinks. I began drinking more when I was 28 and it seemed like my broken childhood began to haunt me. So I did what I had seen growing up, I drank to deal with my problems. Unfortunately it only caused more. At 30 I was involved in a terrible DUI accident that sadly took a life. I hated myself for that, and I became full of guilt and shame. Jesus had not only given me a beautiful relationship with Him, but has healed all the wounds in my heart so that the devil can no longer use those things to hold me back. **1 John 5:21** says, “**Dear children, keep away anything that might take Gods place in your heart.**”

