

Dear Friends,

I am amazed at the **grace** of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit shown to needy humanity. Rom. 5:20b says, "But where sin abounded, **grace** did much more abound." Those coming into the program are utterly devastated by sin. If it wasn't for God's **grace**, they would have no hope. God just opens His big heart of love and compassion toward these undeserving, helpless ones, and pours out His love, mercy, and favor upon them. He saves them and lifts them out of their despair and ruin. Eph. 2:8-9, "For by **grace** are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Lam. 3:22-23, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness."

Thank God for His miracle working power in the lives of needy humanity, for His amazing **grace** that lifts them out of such sinful devastation, and gives them life abundantly. 1 Peter 5:10b, "But the God of all **grace**, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." The testimonies of our graduates tell the story of God's amazing **grace**.

Graduate Testimonies



Taylor Schmidt - My parents were drug addicts. I attended church on Sundays with my grandparents, but would come home to fighting, drugs, strangers, drug dealers, and police at my door to arrest my parents. I was molested at age 10 and began to try every drug I could to feel something besides despair. God (who is El-Roi) saw me, had compassion on me and led me to Teen Challenge. He spoke life and true love into my spirit and became my best friend, my Father, my Lord, and everything in between. 2 Cor. 1:9-10, "In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us."

Jessica Caldwell - I was raised in a Christian home and had no excuse for the lifestyle I chose that led me to Teen Challenge. In my teens I began to rebel, and parties soon led me to drinking and using a variety of drugs. God used my addiction of IV heroin to bring me to my knees and lead me to Teen Challenge. I've never experienced peace and joy like this, and I look forward to dedicating my life to helping others to know His goodness and love! Genesis 50:20, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."



TESTIMONIES CONTINUE ON REVERSE

UPCOMING BANQUET

Holland Christmas Banquet

Thursday, December 7

Doors Open at 6:00 PM

Dinner at 6:30 PM

Beechwood Reformed Church

Please attend and try to fill a table of eight with guests who could be helpful to Teen Challenge. Reservations are needed. Call Barb at 231.798.7927

CAN YOU HELP?

We like to make the holidays special for the students. If you can help by providing turkeys or hams, it will be most appreciated. If you can help, try to have them here by November 15th. Thank you so much.

Ps. 34:19 says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." It may seem that in your Christian life you have been attacked in many ways and very often. Be assured, you are not alone. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous." Peter tells us in 1 Peter 5:8-1, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all **grace**," who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Be encouraged! You will make it through victoriously and triumphantly. "If God be for you, who can be against you?" With Jesus you are on the winning side.

We love you, thank God for you, and thank you for helping us to help the desperate.

In Christ's Service,
Phil & Michelle McClain



Graduate Testimonies

CONTINUED



Julie Underwood - I have been in and out of addiction since I was 10 years old. I married very young and was surrounded by drugs and addicts. My husband passed away from an overdose and I allowed the enemy to almost kill me as well. The Lord had other plans! He showed me favor by sparing my life and bringing me to Teen Challenge. He has been faithful in bringing me back into obedience to His will. I have learned how to use the Armor of God to resist the enemy. Lamentations 3:25, "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him." Today, I strive to please the Lord and to seek Him above all else.



Diana Multari - I grew up in a hostile environment and was exposed to abuse and drugs. A series of tragic events left my life damaged and haunted by feelings of incompleteness, guilt, and shame. At the age of 13, I started a journey with addictions, abusive relationships, suicide attempts, rehabs, and jail stays. At Teen Challenge, God revealed Himself to me and has completely turned my world upside down. I believe I have finally found the answer to my deepest question, "Am I loved?" I finally understand that I have a heavenly father who loves me and adores me. He has taken my fruitless life and given me purpose. Proverbs 31:25-26, "Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."

Tyler Clay - My grandpa, who was my best friend, died when I was 14. I started smoking and drinking, which led me to meth, and eventually I became a full blown IV user. I burglarized my parents' house, and for the next three years, I was in and out of jail. When I was faced with the option of five years in prison or coming to Teen Challenge, I chose the latter, and my life has not been the same. I now know what love truly is, I don't want to use, I'm happy, and I have a future. Phil. 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



Paul Klemme - I grew up very sheltered in a Christian family and private Christian schools, which left me with a curiosity and an appetite for the world. When I transferred to public school for my last two years, I was exposed to alcohol and a variety of drugs, and my addiction began. The Lord entered my life in 2012, but my addiction persisted and led me into hopelessness and depression. However, I longed to know the Lord more deeply. Teen Challenge afforded me the opportunity to become a whole, integrated person and to explore the issues beneath the surface of my heart. I now stand confident in His strength and love. Phil. 1:6, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Todd Johnson - Before coming to Teen Challenge, I was consumed by depression, anxiety, and addiction; I was just waiting to die in my sin. I always tried to understand life through worldly knowledge, but when I was in jail Jesus started working in me. Then, I came to Teen Challenge and learned to stop leaning on my own understanding and focus on faith. I had a genuine peace come over me like I had never felt before, and a joy I can't really understand. In Philippians, Paul speaks of a peace that transcends all understanding. Even though I've lost everything I ever had, I have that peace and a hope for the future I never thought possible. I can't wait to see what God has next for me.



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