

WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

January 2015

440 Pontaluna Road | Muskegon, MI 49444 | 231-798-7927

Dear Friends,

"I thank God upon every remembrance of you" on our mailing list. You are a great encouragement to me. Your prayers and financial giving to this ministry are incredible. Thank you for your faithfulness. I have been in this ministry now for over 44 years and I have never seen the righteous forsaken or His seed begging bread. God has been so good to us!

Students continue to come into the program. Our population is increasing. We are practicing for a new recording session in Nashville, Tennessee, which is coming along quite nicely. We are also experiencing revival on the grounds here at Teen Challenge. We have started a special prayer and praise service on Friday nights. We call it Friday Night Fire. We as staff and students, as well as visitors from the general public are attending. What a marvelous presence of God at these gatherings. Everyone is welcome. Maybe you would like to join us sometime. It's a time of waiting on God. We are not in a hurry. The services start at 6:00 P.M. and usually close about 9:00 P.M.

Can you believe it? 2014 is now history and we are into 2015. I surely thought Jesus would have returned before now. But I'm thankful for the opportunity to purpose to win more souls to Christ. I am reminded of the scripture in 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Then in James 5:7, the scripture says, "Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until He receive the early and latter rain." So as long as Jesus gives us more time to labor in behalf of His kingdom, we want to do everything we can to keep winning souls to Christ. Pray with us as we pursue this endeavor.

2014 STATISTICS

241 decisions for
Christ

190 filled with the
Holy Spirit

106 baptized in water

86 completed three
month induction

84 completed full year

10 completed
restoration phase

223 rallies/church
meetings

Graduates

Eddie Stephens



Curtis Main



Jessica Hidey



Ali Kesrwan



Anthony Montevideo



Jonas Clawson



Ashlie Garza

Do pray with us as we continue to evangelize, disciple and impact souls with the gospel of Jesus Christ. As we do street evangelism, we find desperate people reaching out for a meaningful experience with our Savior. The need is great. But so is our God! Thank you for standing with us again this year with your prayers and financial support. You are greatly needed and appreciated. You, as well as all of us at Teen Challenge, are truly blessed and highly favored. May God bless each of you and have a Blessed New Year!

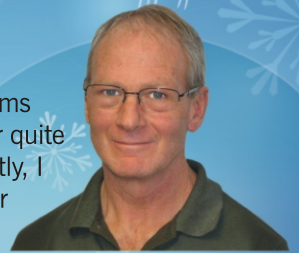
Yours, Serving Christ,
Phil & Michelle McClain
Director of Western Michigan Teen Challenge

Phil & Michelle McClain



Student Testimonies

My name is **Curtis Main**. I am a retired banker, 62 years old and from Michigan. At age 55, I developed undiagnosed kidney stone problems. Over the course of the next couple of years, I became addicted to pain killers. I went to a secular rehab program, where they said, "once an addict, always an addict!" I had problems with that, but I guess that is true when you try to battle the devil on your own...you will lose. I was clean for quite a while, but then relapsed last November, 2014. I decided to come to Teen Challenge. Here, most importantly, I reestablished my relationship with Jesus Christ and lived the 100% surrendered life and obedient lifestyle for Him. God has taken my pride, arrogance, and judgmental attitude and replaced it with humility, surrender and obedience, and a peace of knowing where I will spending eternity.



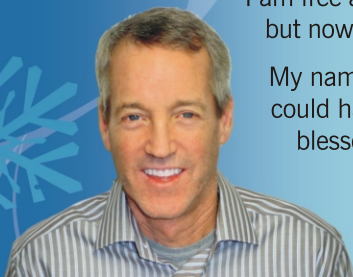
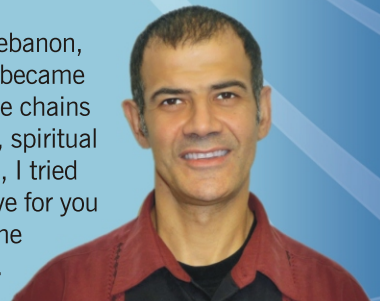
My name is **Jessica Hidey**. I am 33 years old from Youngstown, Ohio. I grew up in a broken home with very little church background. At a young age, my sin life began, and I was consumed with darkness. My life began a downward spiral which consisted of immoral behavior ending with IV drug use. I tried the world's way to break my chains of addiction, but nothing worked. My spirit was broken. I was lost and hopeless. The Lord directed my steps to Teen Challenge where the love of Christ began to work in my life. I learned a new way of living. I am not bound by chains of addiction any longer! Psalm 34:18, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

My name is **Ashlie**. I am 20 years old from Traverse City, Michigan. I grew up in a Christian home. My parents divorced, and my mom remarried a man who abused me in many different ways. I starting using oxycontin to help me cope with my life. It drug me down a long, dark path of misery and sin. I was broken, alone and had lost my will to live. Then I met Jesus in a personal way at Teen Challenge. My life has been changed completely. Now I wake up and I can't wait to see what my day has to offer. I have joy that words can't explain. Sometimes I could just shout. God is restoring my family. He is just so amazing. I can't wait to go out and tell the world about Jesus and how He saved my life. Isaiah 44:22, "I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you."



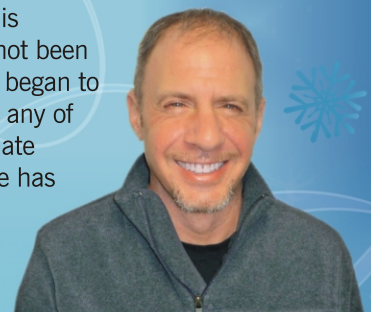
My name is **Jonas Clawson**. I am 33 years old from McConnelsville, Ohio. Although I grew up knowing about God and felt a call on my life at a very young age, certain experiences and things I was exposed to left me very angry and distrustful towards God. I started using drugs and alcohol in my early teens. This continued to escalate as I got older. After 8 years of opiate addiction, I had enough; but at that point I had no clue what to do. I cried out to God and He answered. Using Godly pastors and a beautiful Godly woman, He brought me to Teen Challenge. My heart has been radically changed. In place of the anger, fear and distrust, He has put within me peace, joy, love and a deep trust in Him that I wouldn't trade for anything in this world. Philippians 1:6 says, "And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion the day of Jesus Christ."

My name is **Ali Mohamed Kesrwan**. I'm 44 years old from Dearborn, Michigan. Growing up in Beirut, Lebanon, then Saudi Arabia, I was brought up in the knowledge of Islam. I moved to the states, had a family and became successful in business. After my first drug use, I was enslaved. Samuel Johnson (1709-1781) said, "The chains of addictions are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken." After many rehabs, spiritual help in Mecca and many other ways, I still had not hope. I lost my wife and kids. Lost and full of shame, I tried many times to end my life. But God had different plans for me. Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. He led me to Teen Challenge where I got more than I bargained for. All my chains have been broken. I am free and saved. Thank you Lord! For I was lost but now I am found, was blind but now I see.



My name is **Eddie Stephens**. I am from Livingston, Tennessee. I was raised by two of the best parents anyone could have. I knew right from wrong. During my teen years I began using drugs. After getting married and being blessed with two beautiful daughters, I was able to quit for a number of years. But my drug use started again. All the things I said I would never do, I did. I lost everything, my wife and family and myself. I had given up on life before coming to Teen Challenge. Now I have hope and joy in my life again. God is restoring everything in my life that was taken away. John 8:36 says, "Therefore if the son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

David wrote in Psalm 34:6, "This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him and saved him from all his troubles." My name is **Dr. Anthony Montevideo**, and that is what I did over a year ago, and my life has not been the same. I graduated from the Ohio State University College of Dentistry in 1994, and my sinful nature began to manifest itself at this point in my life. It began with pride, immorality, love of money and not adhering to any of the commandments God gave us. I was at odds with God, and my lifestyle eventually led to a severe opiate addiction which consumed me. Since arriving at Teen Challenge, my mind has been renewed and my life has been transformed. The Lord has instilled His fervent spirit within me, and I am now radical for the Lord instead of the things of this world. I begin each day with Psalm 91:1-2, "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge, my fortress. My God, in Him I trust."



Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.