

WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

January 2016

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

Dear Friends,

Thank God for His many blessings and the accomplishments of 2015. God has truly been good to us, and may we ever praise Him. We don't know what 2016 holds, but we know who holds 2016. Therefore, we can face the New Year with faith and confidence. Knowing that He (our Lord) will never leave us, nor forsake us. Is. 54:17a says, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper." Then the comforting scripture of 1 Cor. 15:57 says, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." So we look forward to this New Year trusting that much will be accomplished in behalf of His kingdom for His honor and glory.

Thank you for facing this New Year with us with your faithful prayers and financial giving. Each one of you on our mailing list is a special blessing to Michelle and I, the staff, and the entire student body. Thank you for standing with us.

Graduates

See back for testimonies.



Mikel Nichole Jeremy Charles Tina Rachel Lamar Jonathan Courtney Amy Joe

Men's Center Remodeling

Necessary remodeling at the men's center is coming along nicely, but we still have much work to do. We are purposing to provide and maintain wholesome living quarters for the students.

Accomplishments Of 2015

317 decisions for Christ
147 filled with the Holy Spirit
74 baptized in water
85 completed three month induction
14 completed restoration phase
228 rallies/church meetings

New CD

The final mix and mastering of the new CD has been completed. We should be receiving it very soon. As soon as it comes, we will send copies to those who have ordered it. Thanks for your patience.

As you face 2016, we will be praying for you, your well-being, and that God will richly prosper you. May you continue to grow in your relationship with God, and may your fellowship with Him be sweet. Have a Happy New Year. We love you.

Love and Prayers,
Phil & Michelle McClain

Phil & Michelle McClain



GRADUATE TESTIMONIES



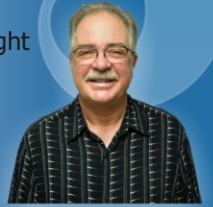
My name is **Charles Tanner** Pentecost. I'm 29 years old from Yucca Valley, CA. At the age of 13, I started hanging with the wrong crowd. I started doing a little weed, then cocaine, and then at the age of 19, methamphetamines. My aunt referred me to Teen Challenge after I lost everything, even my son. Since entering WMTC, the Lord has mightily changed me. I love life, and I love the Lord with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. Psalms 18:16-19, "He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me."

My name is **Jonathan Clements**. I'm 30 years old from Pontiac, MI. I knew of God through attending Christian school, but I didn't know Him. When I went to public high school, I started seeking acceptance from the wrong crowd, which led to drug and alcohol abuse. Quite a few years later, I had major knee surgery which introduced me to Roxicodone and Oxycontin. I figured out how to work the system and manipulated my doctor into giving me almost 1,000 pills a month. My uncle, who is a WMTC graduate, suggested I come to WMTC. I thank God every day that He brought me into a relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. Lamentations 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."



My name is **Courtney Lister**. I'm 52 years old from Manahawkin, NJ. I grew up in a loving Christian home, went to Christian private schools and had a relationship with the Lord at a young age. My parents divorced when I was 15, and I was put into a public school. I tried to fit in, but never felt comfortable with the party scene. I entered the first of many rehabs at the age of 16. After 16 years, I chose alcohol over my family. In 1995, I had a head on collision that put me in a coma for two months with severe brain trauma and internal injuries. I wasn't expected to survive. Through the power of prayer, I learned to walk and talk again. I give the Lord all the glory, honor and praise and tell everyone how He spared my life that I might glorify Him. Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

My name is **Lamar Burkholder**. I'm 57 years old from Nappanee, IN. I grew up in an Amish home being taught right from wrong. At the age of 15, I rebelled and started drinking with my buddies. I liked it. I started smoking pot and using cocaine in my early 20's seeking to fill a void. I increased my use to kill the pain of losing two of my sisters. I was saved in 1992, but faded in and out of my walk with the Lord over the next 22 years. A dear friend from school suggested I go to Teen Challenge. Finally, I broke down and submitted to the Lord. He used the pastors and staff of this ministry to change my life for Him. I can't describe the peace and gratitude I feel.



My name is **Amy Taylor**. I'm 35 years old from Rupert, WV. At the age of 17, I began rebelling against my parents and God. I started partying, which led me into fifteen years of IV drug use. Last year, I found myself in jail; depressed, hopeless, angry, broken and condemned, but then God stepped in. Mark 2:17 says, "...Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." God blessed me with the opportunity to come to Teen Challenge, and He has totally transformed my life. Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in me will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

My name is **Tina Bullers**. I'm 31 years old from Zeeland, MI. Psalm 147:3 says, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." I was brokenhearted and had no hope or joy. I was miserable from a life of drug abuse and trying to fill the emptiness. Then God came in, saved me, filled me and loved me. He has truly healed my broken heart! I am so grateful to Teen Challenge for having a ministry that provides the place, training and teaching for God to change lives.



My name is **Mikel Bowers**. I'm 35 years old from Grand Rapids, MI. I had a good childhood, but started to rebel and experiment with drugs and alcohol in my teens. I went to my first rehab at 16 and several others after with no success. I tried psychologists, psychiatrists and mental hospitals. Nothing helped to relieve my anger and discontentment. I felt alone in the world and decided to drink myself to death. The year before coming to Teen Challenge, I was sick, prone to seizures and very unhappy. In the E.R. a week before my entry here, I cried out to God. He told me in His still small voice to go to Teen Challenge. I submitted to Him, and the blood of Jesus covered all my transgressions and made me into a man who can do whatever God wills me to. James 4:7-8, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

My name is **Joe Schlindwein**. I'm 22 years old from Waukesha, WI. When I entered high school in 2007, my grandpa passed away due to alcohol. We were very close, and I was angry with God for his death. A void grew inside me. I was introduced to marijuana, and I was hooked. I also experimented with alcohol and pills. I was bullied and abused in school, which led me to a homosexual lifestyle. All this left me suicidal. After many hospitalizations and secular rehabs, I was led to Teen Challenge where I fully surrendered my life to Christ. Since coming here, Christ has broken all bondages of homosexuality, drugs, and alcohol. II Corinthians 5:17, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold all things are become new."



My name is **Rachel Floyd**. I'm 40 years old from Shelby, OH. My parents divorced when I was young, and my mom remarried right away. I was confused, angry and bitter, and I turned to drinking and friends to comfort me. At the age of 30, I was introduced to pain pills. I lost my family, my job and my life as I knew it. I reached a point of brokenness that led me to the Lord. In December of 2014, I began my journey at Teen Challenge. Praise God, He picked me up, dusted me off and gave me a whole new way of life. Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

My name is **Jeremy Latham**. I am from South Texas. I grew up with separated, yet loving parents. As a young child I spent most weekends with my Grandparents who kept me in church and did their best to teach me the word of God. As a teen I started letting the enemy in my life as I lusted for the things of this world. Before long "sin" became just a way of life for me. The more I turned my back on God the harder my family prayed. Finally, God allowed me to be brought to my knees. By the grace of God, and good family, I ended up in Teen Challenge. I now have a love for the Lord that can get me through anything. Galatians 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."



My name is **Nichole Deason**. I'm 42 years old from West Virginia. I spent my young life searching for acceptance and my identity, knowing little about the Lord. In 2011, my 21 year old son lost his life in a motorcycle accident. When he was buried I turned to prescription medication, that I eventually started abusing. After 2 1/2 years of barely existing, my marriage of 20 years fell apart. I turned even more to prescription medication and alcohol trying to cope. Since coming to Teen Challenge, I have found joy in the Lord Jesus Christ. Psalm 116:2, "Because He turned His ear to me I will praise Him as long as I live."