

# WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

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

October 2016

Dear Friends,

Is. 30:15 says, "For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; in returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." What God is saying to Israel here is...In returning to Him and putting confidence in Him they would be saved. If you'll be calm and trust me you'll be strong.

As desperate drug addicts and alcoholics are returning to Christ and putting their confidence in Him, they are being saved. As they are calm and put their trust in Him, they are strong. For many, sin had mastered their lives for years. But, as they repent and put their faith in God for salvation, God is saving them. They are learning as they are calm and put their trust in Him, they are strong.

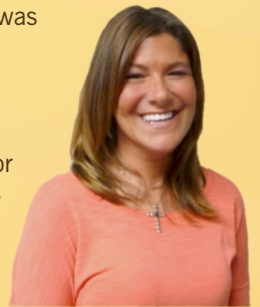
Paul the apostle said in Eh. 6:10, "finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might." People here in the program who were driven by alcohol, drugs and immorality are very thankful that they are learning that they do not have to be weak and driven; but, today they are strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Today they are servants of righteousness through Christ. Michelle and I, and all the staff, thank you for helping us help them. They are amazed and excited about their new life in Christ.

## Student Testimonies (GRADUATE TESTIMONIES ON BACK)



Hey! I'm **Casey Russell**. I am 23 years old, born and raised in the Dallas, TX area. I was raised in a loving home by my mom & my Memaw (grandmother). My father was in and out of prison most of my life, due to his alcohol & drug use. My only memories of him were always saying I'd never end up like him. I grew up going to church, but I never found my identity in Christ. I found it in cheerleading and dance, for which I was offered a full college scholarship. However, I was unexpectedly moved to Sparta, TN. Out of anger and loss I started drinking, which resulted in a pregnancy at age 16 and another at age 19. As a single mom, I turned to selling drugs and cooking meth, which led me doing most of the last 3 years serving prison time. I lost custody of both my children, and then I just gave up. I was lost and broken without a hope or a future and facing 10 years in prison, but God got me to Teen Challenge on December 10, 2015. He has redeemed my life and changed me from the inside out. I love John 16:33, "...In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Thank God I have finally come into His rest.

Hi, my name is **Nicole Rentzel**. I am 32 years old and from Englewood, FL. I was raised in a very loving home. Both of my parents are very successful. I had hearing aids and ADHD as a child, so the enemy told me I was different. In order to be accepted, I excelled in sports and waterskiing at a young age. I had my identity wrapped up in sports, achievement and perfectionism. Body image was how I thought I would find love. I developed full blown bulimia at age 18 and from there, I turned to alcohol, IV drug use (both meth and heroin), crack cocaine and anything to escape the realities of everyday life. I have been in 9 rehabs, jail, mental institutions; and by God's grace, I have now been at Teen Challenge for 10 months. I thank God for my 14 year battle with bulimia and self-destructive behaviors, because He turned them into opportunities for me to develop a greater dependence on Him. My greatest trials have produced the most intimate times I've had with the Lord. When I had nothing, I had Him, and He is enough. I stand on Ephesians 3:19, "May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God." My family and my health have been restored. God has delivered me from all bondages. Today I am saved and resting in Christ. God has truly taken what the enemy meant to destroy me and turned it into something beautiful to help others.



## Upcoming Fundraisers

SAVE THE DATE IN YOUR AREA

The MENU will be surprisingly different.

### Grand Rapids

Thursday, October 6 ~ Doors Open at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM  
Grand Rapids First Assembly of God

### Muskegon

Thursday, October 27 ~ Doors Open at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM  
Maranatha Bible Conference Grounds

### Holland Christmas Banquet

Thursday, December 8 ~ Doors Open at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM  
Beechwood Church

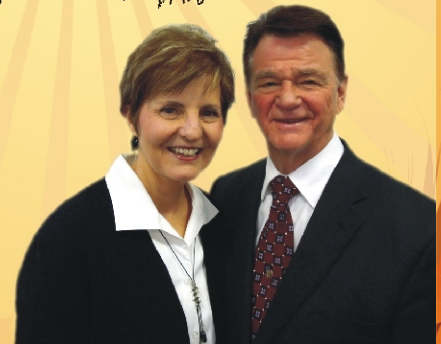
Please attend and try to fill a table of eight with guests who could be helpful to Teen Challenge. For reservations, contact Cindy, Barb or Brenna at 231.798.7927.

## Remodeling Men's Center

Progress is being made remodeling all the dorms at the men's center. We were able to purchase all new, sturdy BUNKBEDS for our men. Thank God for those who made this financially possible.

We have been in this ministry for many, many years now. Yet, we are ever amazed at the saving power of Jesus Christ and how a life can be so lost and devastated by sin, and Jesus Christ's mighty power lifts them out. He puts a smile on their face and brings confidence to their lives. Thanks again for standing with us in prayer and financial giving to help make all these mighty miracles possible. Truly we are laborers "together" with Christ. Your reward will be great in Heaven. We here at Teen Challenge love you. May God bless you.

*Rob & Michelle Malin*





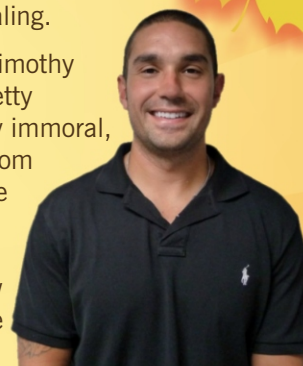
# GRADUATE TESTIMONIES

Hi! My name is **Tammy Smith**, I am 44 years old, and I am from Livingston, TN. I am the youngest of ten kids. I went to church and a private school as a kid, but all I grew up around was drinking moonshine and running in bars. I got introduced to drugs by a doctor at a young age, and my life was destroyed for years and everyone around me. I made a path of destruction, but God turned my life around by his mercy and grace and gave me a vision of the right path to walk. I looked like death a year ago, but look at me now! I give God all the praise and glory for restoring my family and me. Thank you God for Teen Challenge. It took God to fix me, not rehab. God is my rock. God bless. Proverbs 16:33 (NLT), "We may throw the dice, but the Lord determines how they fall."



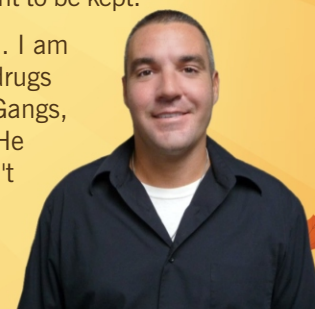
My name is **Cyril Mayne**. I'm 34 from Grand Rapids, MI. I grew up in a solid Christian home, attending church and youth group functions regularly. Still, at an early age, I began experimenting with a variety of drugs and other risky behaviors. After being robbed at knifepoint, I stopped using street drugs and began using only alcohol. In my early 20's, within a 4 year period, I lost both my mother and brother, got married and 3 children were born to me. Feeling overwhelmed and ill-prepared to deal with both the blessings and the sorrow of my losses, I turned to alcohol to manage my stress and grief. After a series of hospitalizations, residential and outpatient treatments, God, in his mercy, brought me physically and spiritually broken into Teen Challenge. On crutches with a broken ankle, due to an alcohol related accident, terrified and wholly humbled I came to an altar and found forgiveness and restoration to a right relationship with my God and the Lord of my youth, Jesus Christ. Micah 6:8 says, "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Through the last year, God has restored my sanity and is faithfully restoring me back to a right relationship with my wife and four children. I praise God for the cross of Christ and the altars here at Teen Challenge where a broken and wayward son could return to the Father and find healing.

Hi, my name is **Curtis Rodgers** and I am 33 years old from Jasper, Indiana. The apostle Paul said in Timothy 1:15 that "Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst." That was a pretty accurate description of my life prior to Teen Challenge. I was a liar, thief, cheater, manipulator, sexually immoral, an alcoholic with a pain pill addiction. I had been to jail a dozen times, prison twice, and died twice from overdoses. I was so lost in darkness, none of this woke me up until the day I realized I had become the one thing I never wanted to be, a bad dad. I love my children and have never abused them, but you can't be a good dad if you're not present. God opened my eyes and heart to the reality of my life and revealed his loving-kindness to me by bringing me into his saving grace here at Teen Challenge. I know now, the creator of this universe and the one and only living God loves me and has a plan and purpose for my life. He has redeemed me, and I am going to serve him the rest of my life and with all of my heart. A verse I hold close to my heart is 1 Corinthians 15:10, "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect."



Hi! My name is **Corina Regalado** and I'm 34 years old. I'm from Adrian, Michigan. I was raised by my grandparents in a strong Catholic Home. I started rebelling against my grandparents because I had a lot of hate in my heart. I was hanging out with the older crowd, smoking pot and drinking, and then began using pain pills. These things led to an IV Heroin Addiction which led me down a dark, scary path. I lost everything my kids, my family, and my freedom. I came to Teen Challenge on my birthday last year in September and by the grace of God, he has healed my heart and restored everything back to me. I have my family, my babies and a beautiful marriage! Praise God! Isaiah 54:17 says "No weapon formed against me shall prosper" and what is most important now is that I have a relationship with God. The word will keep me because I want to be kept!

My name is **Clint Sorrell**. I am 36 years old from Birmingham, Alabama. I now live in Muskegon, MI. I am married to an amazing woman, and the proud father of 14 children. My life has been plagued with drugs and alcohol for 24 years. Yes, I started very young. It was a way of life on the streets I grew up on. Gangs, violence, drugs and all that comes along with it. I believed I was destined to die a thug, BUT GOD! He had a different plan. I was called to be a youth pastor in 2006 and ran from that because I just didn't believe I could do it. I couldn't, He can! So, now I am going home to lead my family and pursue full time ministry and work to provide for my family. The verse I stand on is simple, but powerful. Romans 12:21, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."



Hi! My name is **Christopher Torres** and I am 35 years old from Coldwater, Michigan. I was raised by my mom in Brooklyn, New York in a non-Christian home with an abusive alcoholic as a father. We moved to Michigan at a young age, and my mom had to work hard to provide for three boys, which left little time for discipline. In high school I excelled in athletics, but my drug use had already begun. At age twenty, I received a call asking me to give part of my liver to save my dad's life. I refused, due to unforgiveness, and three years later, he died. I took it extremely hard, shouldering the blame, and that is when I turned down the road that led to a full-blown heroin addiction. I struggled under my own power for several years, until God brought me to my knees and into the doors of Teen Challenge. Since being here, I learned what forgiveness and grace are all about. I know how to love and receive love now, and my relationship with Jesus is the priority of my life. I thank the Lord for this ministry and everyone who contributes to changing lives here. The verse I stand on is John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

