



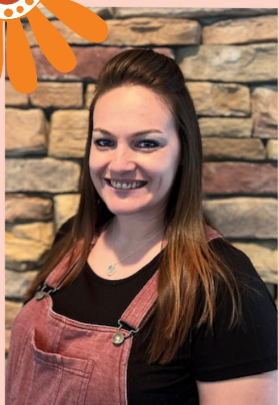
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It seems as though in our world today that people tend to react on feelings. Those reactions to feelings tend to spiral one into a dark place. At Teen Challenge, we want to share the truth with our students that there is hope and freedom in feeling the presence of God in their lives. We want to show them how much God loves them and that through salvation God's love is in them. Because of the love of God we have been given the wonderful and precious gift of Jesus Christ! 1 John 4:9-10 (ESV) says, *"In this the **love of God** was made manifest among us, that God **sent his only Son into the world**, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* The gift of Jesus Christ is not because we loved God first, rather it is because God loves us! In John's gospel, John 1:4 (ESV) we are told, *"In him (Jesus) was life, and the life was the light of men."* In verse 9 (ESV), *"The **true light, which gives light to everyone**, was coming into the world."* How more can we really feel something than when it is inside us? God sent His son Jesus. Jesus is the light. The light of Jesus is inside us!

We want to share the truth, in love, to the men and women at Western Michigan Teen Challenge. We want them to feel Jesus, to sense the light inside them, to know beyond a shadow of doubt the love of God that has been poured into them through Jesus Christ, His son. We no longer need to negatively react to feeling, we know that the love of God resides in us. The fullness of His presence in our life gives us peace and comfort we need to live in this world. Through all of life's ups and downs we can feel the Lord's embrace. Thank you Lord, for loving us like you do no matter how broken we may be! I am reminded of a wonderful example of God's love to the lost and hurting when the prodigal son returned home in Luke 15:20 (ESV) *"And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him."* Oh, what a loving father!

GRADUATE TESTIMONY

Anna Rabideau



My father passed away before I was born. I was raised by my mother who loved God and kept our family active in church. Growing up we would talk about God every day. I began to feel an emptiness of my father's death in my early teens and turned to the wrong crowd for love and acceptance. I stopped going to church and fell away from everything I knew. I was only 15 years-old when I used cocaine for the first time. I began a long road of darkness and years of destruction continuing to use various forms of drugs, hurting myself and everyone around me. I never managed to break free from the bondage I was tangled in. That bondage led me to getting in trouble with the law and spending time in jail. It was there that I expressed to a Jail

Chaplain that I want to feel God's presence again in my life. We began to pray and I heard, in my spirit, the Lord say, "I am your father, you are my child." Instantly all the emptiness I carried for so long was healed! Accepting God as my father was the best decision I've ever made. While at Teen Challenge, God has completely restored me into the woman of God I am today. My mind is whole, my heart is whole...I am whole! I find my true identity in Christ. I am redeemed! I am accepted! I am a daughter of the Most High King!

Thank you for standing with us in prayer and for giving to this ministry so that we can continue to show the love of God to the lost and broken who are caught up in addiction. Your faithfulness has been much needed and an encouragement to us. You have been a blessing to us! We love you and thank you for standing with us in faith. By the grace of God we will continue to see many souls come to Christ this year. If you know of anyone who is lost and suffering in addiction please let them know we are here to share with them the hope and freedom found in Jesus Christ.

Love and prayers,
Phil and Michelle McClain

