

WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

March 2013

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

Dear Friends,

We live in very **troubled** times, yet, very **exciting** because of the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ for His saints. **Troubled** "because iniquity (sin) shall abound, the love of many (for the Lord) shall wax cold (Matt. 24:12)." As a result many will not make heaven their eternal home, but will suffer in the flames of eternity. Paul the Apostle told us in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, "For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! (NLT)" Certainly these are the days we find ourselves in today. John the Revelator said in the book of Revelation to the Laodicean church, which is typical of the church today, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou were cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth (Revelation 3:15-16)." So here we see the spiritually lukewarm will not make the kingdom of God. It's a day to stay close to Jesus and on fire for God. Love Him with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength. Be faithful in your prayer life, your time in the Word of God, and be faithful to attend the house of the Lord - the church. Remember what Paul said in Hebrews 10:25, "...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Keep your focus on Jesus, our soon coming King. Make Him number one priority in your life. Remember the words of our Lord in Matthew 16:26, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for His soul?" Jesus must be number one!

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it

You Are Invited SPRING FUND RAISING BANQUETS

Muskegon Banquet

March 21, 2013 at 7:00 pm
Maranatha Bible
Conference Grounds
4759 Lake Harbor Road

Grand Rapids Banquet

April 25, 2013 at 7:00 pm
First Assembly of God
2100 Forty-Fourth Street

Begin to invite guests now and phone in your reservations. If possible, fill a table of eight people or more. It will be an evening of great food, fellowship, student testimonies and inspiring music. Doors open at 6:30 pm and dinner will be served at 7:00 pm. Adults only. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you there. R.S.V.P. to Cindy at 231.798.7927.

Our students are growing in God through the teaching and preaching of the Word of God by our teachers and pastors. Relationships are being mended, broken homes and marriages are being restored. **Cindy**, a graduate last month has been restored to her husband in Tennessee, marriage healed. **Jackie**, a girl presently in the program, was reunited in marriage with her husband just last week. One miracle after another is taking place as these precious ones seek the Lord in humility and prayer. Addictions are being broken, and lives are being set free. All glory to God!

The staff, students, and Michelle and I thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support of this ministry. You are being a great blessing to all of us. May God bless you. We love and appreciate you.

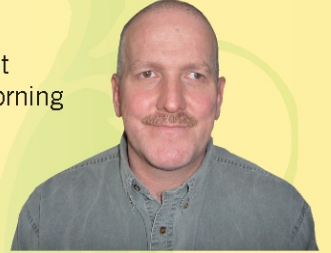


Yours, Serving Christ,
Phil and Michelle

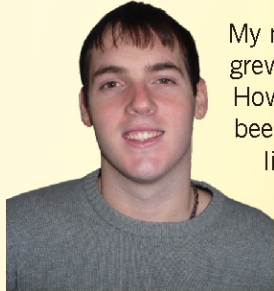
Phil & Michelle Malin

GRADUATION DATE IS MARCH 7 - 7:00 PM - PONTALUNA ROAD Graduates

Hi, my name is Billy and I'm from Sparta, Tennessee. In 2009, I became addicted to oxycontin. One morning, my supply had run out and I could not function without it. I remember crying out for God to help me. The next morning I was arrested for 5 counts of sale and delivery and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Prayer answered! Prison was better than death. I was then given a deal for 18 months in county jail and to complete Teen Challenge. That would do away with the prison sentence. Now I only have 4 years probation. God is great! **Proverbs 30:5 - Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him.**



Billy Joe Lance, Jr.



Eric Jones

My name is Eric Jones. I am 23 years old and I'm from Gainesboro, Tennessee. I grew up doing everything I was told that would make me successful in life. However I started to get off track around 17 years old and the last 6 years have been a downward spiral. My various addictions brought me to a dark place in my life. God's grace has brought me through an overdose, car accidents and many other situations that put my life and soul in jeopardy. I thank God that His light casts out all darkness and is revealing His path unto my feet. **"Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home" Amazing Grace!**

Hi, I'm Liz. I'm 32 years old and I'm from Birmingham, Alabama. I came to Teen Challenge lost and needing guidance from the Lord. Although God had proven Himself in my life time and time again, I still chose to run from Him. An addiction to oxycontin and methadone left me depressed with no hope for the future. I finally had enough, and I cried out to the Lord to save me from myself. I told Him I would do whatever it took-that I just couldn't live that way anymore! I am grateful that the Lord heard my cry and brought me to Teen Challenge! My whole life has changed and I now have the joy and peace of the Lord in my heart! I have a new hope in the future and I know the Lord will guide me every step of the way! The verse I stand on is **Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.**



Liz Collier



Ambre Kovacs

My name is Ambre Kovacs. I am 25 years old, and I am from Wisconsin. Growing up we moved around a lot. At the age of 13, my parents moved us from the city to the country, so through my teens all there was to do for "fun" was drink, do drugs and party. So, that's what I did. I got into a 5 year relationship when I was 18. We started using pills together which eventually led to IV use of heroine. When we broke up things got worse. I spent the next 2 1/2 years in rehab and therapy, but mostly in and out of jail. One night after getting out of jail I got desperate and called out to God. Two weeks later I was at Western Michigan Teen Challenge. Since coming here, the Lord has turned my life upside down. He has given me joy! He is my peace, comfort, and strength. He is my everything! Only the Lord knows His plans for me, but this one thing I do know is even if He never does another thing for me, I owe Him the rest of my life to do His work and service. The verse I stand on is **Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not be faint.**

My name is Alisha. I am 22 years old. I am from Mt. Hope, West Virginia. I was not raised in a Christian home. Both of my parents were addicted to alcohol and drugs. For the first part of my childhood I was raised by my mom who was neglectful and very abusive physically. When I was 8 years old I was taken away from my Mom and later placed into the States custody. This led to a long line of juvenile centers and group homes. By the age of 16, I was entering my fourth group home and at this point had pretty much lost hope of being back with my family. I became very isolated and shut out from the world. Due to the lack of love and the void of not having my parents, I dealt with feelings of self-hatred and rejection. As a teen I began experimenting with drugs and alcohol and continued on this road. By the age of 19, I was a full-blown IV user and heavily addicted to crack cocaine. This took over my life and led me down a path of destruction. Four years later, after losing everything and hitting rock bottom, I knew I had to get help. I found help at a Crisis Center in Tennessee and the pastor there brought me to Western Michigan Teen Challenge. Since coming here, God has done so much in my life. He has transformed me from the inside out. I walked through the doors of Teen Challenge 12 months ago broken and without hope. God took what the devil meant for harm and has given me beauty for ashes and a new life to glorify His name. **Psalms 40:1-3 I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what He has done and be astounded. They will put their trust in the Lord.**



Alisha Menei