

WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

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

November 2016

Dear Friend,

I have been the director of Western Michigan Teen Challenge for over 46 years. As in my early days of ministry, as well as today, the scripture found in **Proverbs 13:15b still stands time, "The way of the transgressors (faithless) is hard."** Life is hard for those who refuse to put their faith in Jesus Christ for their soul's salvation. **Heb 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."** Jesus said in **John 10:10b, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."** Real life, spiritual life and eternal life is found in Jesus Christ. **Jesus said in John 3:15, "That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."** When a person accepts Jesus Christ into their heart by faith, their **"faith is counted for righteousness."** **Ro 4:5. Ro 3:22 says, "Having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."**

Life does not have to be hard and gruesome. It can be joyful, rewarding and abundant in Christ Jesus our Lord. That's what all of those who come into Teen Challenge who were addicts, alcoholics, the worst of sinners are finding.

If you have not yet accepted Jesus Christ into your heart by faith, and your life is filled with hardship and difficulty, ask Jesus Christ to come into your life today by faith. **He said, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."** **Matt 11:30.**



Kristine Wier



Donald

Graduates



Alex



Darrin

Graduate Testimonies (MORE TESTIMONIES ON BACK)

Hi there! I'm Kristine Wier, I'm 36 and from Muskegon, MI. I grew up in a home where I knew about the Lord, but I never had a relationship with Him. We left church at church. I had an alcoholic dad and an abusive step-dad. My amazing mom did the best she could; but the passing of my step-dad left me seeking love and acceptance from guys at an early age. I was married by 21, and at 25 we had our son. Soon after, I started experimenting with drugs. After many life changing events, including my dad passing away and losing custody of my son to his dad, I became a full blown IV heroin and crack addict. I was caught in a vicious cycle of using and stealing to support my habit. After many jail stays, two heart attacks and looking death in the face, my path of destruction landed me in the county jail for an extended stay. There I connected with Forgotten Man Ministries. They listened and gave me the hope I needed to come back to the Lord. I became desperate for Him, and He saved me and returned rest to my soul. On October 13, 2015, I walked through the doors of Teen Challenge. In the past year, the Lord has cleared my path, declared me holy and blameless and has totally redeemed me! He restored my relationship with my son and cleaned my slate with his dad and step-mom. He's renewed family relationships, healed me from diseases and set my feet on solid ground to be a vessel for Him in jail ministry. With the Lord, my life is now complete and my joy is found in Him! I stand on Colossians 1:21-22, "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation." Amen



Upcoming Fundraisers

SAVE THE DATE - SURPRISING MENU

Muskegon

Thursday, October 27

Doors Open at 6:00 PM - Dinner at 6:30 PM
Maranatha Bible and Conference Grounds

Holland Christmas Banquet

Thursday, December 8

Doors Open at 6:00 PM - Dinner at 6:30 PM
Beechwood Reformed 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.

Update: Grand Rapids Banquet

The night was filled with guests, joy and the presence of God throughout the meal time, introduction of Teen Challenge, choir singing and testimonies. Also, it turned out to be a real blessing to Teen Challenge financially.

Dear Christian brothers and sisters in Christ we live in the last days. Jesus is coming soon. The Bible tells us **"in the last days perilous (evil) times shall come."** Jesus said, **"Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."** Hebrews tells us **"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have not pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition (ruin); but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."** Don't look back, turn back, be discouraged or faint. But, keep your faith in Jesus Christ. Don't forget what He said, **"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, ye may be also."**

Hang on to your faith, saints. Don't let go. Look up, your redemption draweth nigh. Michelle and I love all of you. You are dear to our hearts. We hope to hear from you this month. May God bless you richly.

Souls for Christ,
Phil & Michelle McClain

Phil & Michelle McClain



Graduate Testimonies (CONTINUED)

My name is Alex, and I'm 21 years old from Detroit, MI. I grew up in a broken home and had to grow up quick. I was introduced to pain pills in 7th grade, and over a course of 7 years I had become a full blown intravenous heroin and crack addict. I found myself in jail right before my 20th birthday and cried out for help to my family. After the Lord had His way in the court room, I came to Teen Challenge an angry, bitter, hateful person. The world had chewed me up and spit me out. Once I accepted the Lord into my life, He really started to do a heart change in me. God has restored my mind and my health. He's not only working in my life, but He has also restored my family to me, and they've come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. I stand firmly on Acts 16:31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."



Hello! My name is Donald, I'm 40 years old and I'm from Muskegon, MI. Half of my life I chased after the world and everything in it. Betrayal and disappointments caused me to develop a very uncomfortable dislike for people. My life became private and full of darkness. I was depressed, bitter, angry, and motivated by alcohol. I found myself on the wrong side of the law multiple times, with no idea how my life had spiraled completely out of control. I thank God for Western Michigan Teen Challenge. Psalms 120:1, "In my distress I cried to the Lord, and He answered me."



Hello, my name is Darrin, I'm 47 years old from Muskegon, MI. I'm very grateful and blessed to be a part of this great ministry. I grew up in a good home with two parents that worked hard to provide for me and my siblings. I didn't start using drugs and drinking until I graduated High School. I started hanging with the wrong crowd, and my use of drugs escalated. Eventually, opiates and heroin became my drugs of choice. I got my first wakeup call and hit rock bottom in 2006, when I woke up in the hospital after an overdose. I went to a secular rehab and remained clean for 8 years. In 2014, I had a major surgery and started back abusing opiates. "...The last state of that man is worse than the first." (Matthew 12:45) I found this great ministry (Teen Challenge), and it has been a God-sent blessing in my life. It has restored my relationships with my wife and kids, my family and friends, and most importantly, I have my first love back in my life, Jesus Christ! God's forgiveness has transformed me and removed the guilt and shame that sin brings. Today, "I can walk in the newness of life" that Jesus offers through the cross and salvation. One of my favorite verses is 1 Corinthians 2:9, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."



and He answered me.