

# WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

April 2018

440 PONTALUNA ROAD | MUSKEGON, MI 49444 | 231-798-7927

Dear Friends,

The staff of Teen Challenge, my wife, Michelle, and I desire to be the hands of Jesus reaching out to the lonely, depressed, shattered, and addicted of our society. Their lives have been broken. They are without hope and bound by sin. Jesus, the cross, the shed blood of Christ, and being born again is their only hope. He is the one we introduce to these hurting ones.

He saves them, delivers them from their misery and addiction, forgives them their sin, and makes them brand new Christians in Christ. We never get tired of telling the old, old story that Jesus saves and transforms lives. The evidence of a change of life on the inside many times is revealed on the faces of those who come to Jesus for salvation and renewal.

**Listen to Larissa's and Brandon's testimonies of their lives before and after receiving Jesus Christ.**



## VANS

**We have purchased two new vans** to help transport students as needed, especially to local churches on Sunday mornings where we attend. **Still other students travel with we pastors to various churches for special Teen Challenge rallies.** At these churches we pastors and rally teams (students) introduce Teen Challenge, sing, give testimonies and give a brief message from the Word of God. Many times sinners come to Christ in these services. The churches also take up a special love offering for the ministry of Teen Challenge. If you would like one of our rally teams to come to your church, please call us at Teen Challenge (231) 798-7927. We will be glad to book a date to come to your church. I'm sure you and the people of your church will be blessed abundantly because of the glorious presence of Christ in these services.

## Outcome of the Grand Rapids Fund- Raising Banquet

Thursday, March 15, was a tremendous blessing to Teen Challenge with about 400 guests attending. Thank you, Grand Rapids.

## Upcoming Muskegon Get Acquainted, Fund-Raising Banquet

Thursday, April 12

Maranatha Bible and Conference Grounds  
4759 Lake Harbor Road, Norton Shores, MI

Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.

Banquet will start at 6:30 p.m.

For reservations, call Teen Challenge (231) 798-7927. Ask for Cindy.

## Graduate Testimonies

TESTIMONIES CONTINUED ON BACK

**Larissa Updyke.** I started experimenting with drugs and alcohol in high school, which led to a heroin addiction after a very abusive relationship. After an overdose I lost custody of my son and was looking at the possibility of losing my freedom. This brought me through the doors of Teen Challenge. Since being in the program the Lord has restored my family and my freedom. He has been molding me into a Godly mother for my son. I can now be a shining light to my family and those around me all because of Jesus and His saving grace.



**Brandon Hansen.** I walked into the doors of Teen Challenge physically and spiritually exhausted from striving to be noticed and affirmed by God. I was on staff at a church and was observing God move in the lives of everyone around me, but I was battling my own issues that stemmed from a lack of identity in Christ. Rather than serve my Father's mission to love people, I led a manipulative and selfish life.

Then I had a revelation of my Father's love. Since then, I've been on a journey of being transformed into a loving, grace-thinking son of God. I found that the only way to get on my feet was to get on my knees before my Father.

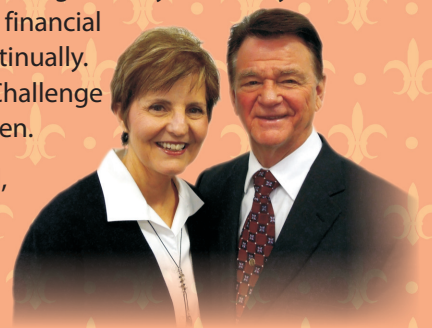
Michelle and I thank God for the Teen Challenge ministry and the life changes we see on a continual basis. We thank God for each of you on our mailing list who support us with your prayers and financial giving. You are precious and faithful. Thank you so much.

**We have done major remodeling of three of our dormitories at the men's center.** The improvements have been great and much needed. We are starting on the last dorm this week. We are also replacing quite a bit of the brick on the outside of the building and putting in new windows. We will be glad to get it completed.

Now, concerning you dear ones on our mailing list, may God richly bless you, keep you in health, meet your every financial need, and shower His love upon you continually. Michelle and I and all of us here at Teen Challenge send our love to you and pray for you often.

Yours in Christ for the sake of the gospel,  
Phil & Michelle McClain  
Director

*Phil & Michelle McClain*



# Graduate Testimonies

CONTINUED



**Stephanie Thompson.** All my life I have been searching to fill a void. Growing up I was bullied and didn't have friends. I didn't know who I was or what I was comfortable doing. My world was torn apart after I had a miscarriage. I didn't want to feel anymore. I had been traveling down a dark path of addiction to cocaine, meth and other drugs. The day my life changed was when I went to church and they told me about Teen Challenge. By the Grace of God, I am who I am. I now know who I am and who I belong to. I have such a huge heart and love for people. I want to go back to Tennessee and set the town on fire for the Lord.

**Daniel James Wrzesinski.** I was raised in a good Christian family and was taught to be obedient, kind and hard-working since childhood.

As I grew older, the distractions of society gradually stole my attention away from Jesus. At a secular university I became indoctrinated with worldly ideas and new age lifestyles. The more lies I believed, the more arrogant I became. After college I pursued careers in film/television and the arts, which lured me into a life of darkness that took over my heart and mind. I experienced many failures, and often turned to drinking and drugs to cope with anger, depression and anxiety. It took years to realize God was trying to draw me back to Him, while stripping me of my pride. After trying nearly every form of "self-help" possible, I finally came back to Christ in 2011. But I still tried to live life my way, and knew little about spiritual warfare.

Through the Teen Challenge ministry, God has blessed me with a deeper knowledge of His word and Holy Spirit, and has shown me what it means to walk by faith in humility, love, and obedience with Jesus every day. The wisdom imparted to me here is priceless. Today I am truly a new creation in Christ.



*I heard an old, old story, How a Savior came from glory,  
How He gave His life on Calvary To save a wretch like  
me; I heard about His groaning, Of His precious blood's  
atonement, Then I repented of my sins; And won the victory*