

# WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

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

April 2012

Dear Friends,

Our God is a **compassionate** God. Lam 3:22-23 says, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His **compassions** fail not. They are new every morning: great is **Thy faithfulness.**" Whatever you need today or whatever you are going through, God loves you very much and He is **compassionate** towards you. He will not fail you. Great is His faithfulness. We see the truth of these scriptures revealed again and again here at Teen Challenge in the lives of the students and in our own personal lives. God is **compassionate** and **faithful**. He is also **merciful**. If it wasn't for His **mercy** we would be consumed. Life's obstacles would swallow us up. Eph 2:4 says God is rich in **mercy**. James 5:11 says, "The Lord is pitiful, and of tender **mercy.**" The Psalmist said concerning our Lord - who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender **mercies** (Psalm 103:4). Thank God, He is merciful, compassionate, and faithful. You can trust Him, His Word, and His faithfulness.

## You Are Invited

### GRAND RAPIDS FUNDRAISING BANQUET

April 19, 2012 at 7:00 pm

**First Assembly of God**  
2100 Forty-Fourth Street

You will want to attend this 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.

## Alumni Fellowship

Alumni, please join us for the Alumni Fellowship on Friday, May 4th at 7:00 pm at Teen Challenge. If you know someone who graduated from Teen Challenge, please encourage him or her to attend. If you are a graduate, please join us for a wonderful evening of food, fellowship and encouragement. We look forward to seeing you! R.S.V.P. to Cindy at 231.798.7927.

## Bike-A-Thon

Our 34th Annual Bike-A-Thon will be held on Saturday, June 23rd. If you would like to participate in this fun-filled day by riding from Holland to Grand Haven or by sponsoring a rider, please call Cindy at 231.798.7927 or email cindyh@wm-tc.com. The families of students are welcome to join us after the bike ride at 3:00 pm for activities and a picnic.



## Graduate Testimony

### Rose Huizenga

I am 35 years old from Allegan, Michigan. When my son became sick at two months of age and we almost lost him, I became angry and bitter at God. Although he was alive, he became handicapped. That's when my world fell apart. I was put on seven antidepressants, two anxiety meds and two different painkillers. I was so hurt by the way people would look, judge and ridicule my family for taking my son out in public that eventually I became a prisoner to my own home for six years. Within that time I had two suicide attempts. My family became very concerned at this point and strongly recommended that I come to Teen Challenge. I am so glad I came because the grace of God saved me from the world I was afraid of and delivered me from the bondage of fear. **II Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind.**



### Melissa Searles

I am 35 years old from Riverside, California. During my teen years I looked to alcohol and marijuana to deal with my feelings of anger, bitterness and loneliness. It only opened the door to destruction. At the age of 23 I was introduced to crack cocaine. It took me down a road of despair and isolation. Then I came to Teen Challenge! For the first time in my life I feel free from the turmoil inside of me. I now have a peace and joy in my heart and a hunger to show others that through Christ all things are possible. **Psalms 34:5-6 Those who look to Him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; He saved me from all my troubles.**



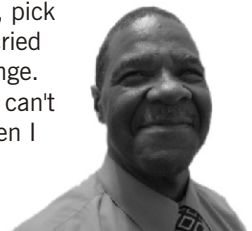
### Steven Nijak

I am 21 years old from South Bend, Indiana. Growing up I always excelled in sports and academics. I quickly turned to drugs and alcohol to fit in with the world. My junior year I was introduced to painkillers, which led to my IV heroin addiction. This drug led me down a path I never thought I would take. In my desperation I prayed and the Lord listened. Teen Challenge became an option and my life has never been the same since. I thank God for the peace and joy I have today. I'm going to serve Him forever! **Psalm 18:30 As for God, His way is perfect; the Word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.**



### Roemel Brooks

I am 58 years old from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I grew up in a loving Christian family. In Jr. High School a teacher gave me some heroin and for the next 44 years I was in bondage to this drug. I began living the street life - selling drugs, pick pocketing, and gambling. After facing death numerous times, I cried out to God and He used my sister to help me get to Teen Challenge. God has broken the chains of addiction in my life. When I said I can't manage, God said **I will supply all your needs (Phil. 4:19)**. When I said I can't figure things out, God said **I will direct your steps (Proverbs 3:5-6)**. I love the Lord, He heard my cry!



The scripture says concerning our Lord "When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with **compassion** on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd." There are literally thousands today caught in the web of drug addiction and alcoholism, fainting, scattered abroad, as sheep without a shepherd. The harvest truly is plenteous. We must continue to labor and reach these desperate ones for Jesus. They are precious to Him. Your prayers and financial giving makes you a laborer with us in reaching these broken, helpless ones. One day the sower and reaper will sit down and rejoice together. Thank you for sowing into this ministry. You are helping in the harvest. God's richest blessings on you.

In Christ's Service,

*Phil & Michelle McClain*

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