

WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

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

July 2013

Dear Friends,

I want to encourage you who are going through difficulties and facing hardships. Many are! Ps. 55:22, the Psalmist David said, "Cast thy burden upon the Lord and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Any hardships or burdens, the Lord wants you to cast them on Him. He shall sustain thee. He shall maintain, keep, nourish, carry you, and be present. Then He will not suffer you to be moved, to slip or fall.

Paul the Apostle was going through a very difficult time of testing. He was in prison, an old Roman dungeon, for preaching the Gospel of Christ. He was facing Nero, the Roman Emperor, for the second time. He knew his life would no doubt be taken. At times sewage would flow through the rat-infested dungeon up to the prisoners' armpits. It was very unsanitary conditions and certainly not the best of food. Under these conditions Paul writes to the suffering church at Philippi and says,

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice." Paul was not down cast. He knew how to cast his burdens on the Lord and let the Lord sustain him - to keep, carry, nourish, and maintain him. Then Paul said, in verse 5, "Let your **moderation** (sweet reasonableness) be known unto all men." In verses 6-8 Paul says, "Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, that passeth all understanding, shall keep (guard) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Finally, brethren whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and worthy of praise, think on these things. Paul said in verse 11-13, "...I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased...to abound...to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Paul refused to let life circumstances discourage him. He kept rejoicing in the Lord. He kept thinking on positive things and refused the negative. His victory was in Christ. He triumphed in the Lord. He kept the faith. God's grace never failed. Saint of God, keep rejoicing! God is on your side, and He will not fail you. He will sustain you.

ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP

Alumni, please join us for our summer Alumni Fellowship on Friday, July 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. 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.

UPCOMING FALL BANQUETS

Grand Rapids Banquet

Thursday, September 26, 2013
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

First Assembly of God
2100 Forty-Fourth Street SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49509

Muskegon Banquet

Thursday, October 10, 2013
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Maranatha Bible Conference Grounds
4759 Lake Harbor Road
Norton Shores, MI 49441

It feels like summer has just arrived, but you may want to get these fall banquet dates on your calendar. Will you attend and perhaps host a table of eight or more? We look forward to hearing from you. Adults only. For reservations, call Cindy at 231.798.7927.

GRADUATE OF THE MONTH



My name is Zack Brown. I am 24 years old and I am from Indianapolis, Indiana. I lived a chaotic disastrous life. I fell in love with drinking alcohol and smoking pot at the age of 14. I wandered aimlessly for 3 years, destroying my

life with addiction. I fell into the homeless lifestyle. Although many seeds were planted in my life, it never stuck. Long story short, I got locked-up in Elkhart County Jail. Rich Moser introduced himself to me and I told him my story. He suggested Teen Challenge. Here I am graduating by the grace of God. I have now gained the knowledge of the Word and the love of God and a relationship that I never knew existed. I am seeking the Lord for direction for my future. I know I am going to serve the Lord. I have kept in my heart one verse above many that I stand on - **For I the Lord, thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, fear not: I will help thee. Isaiah 41:13.**

All of you on our mailing list are such a blessing to us here at Teen Challenge. Your prayers and financial support are a blessing and encouragement. We will always love you, pray for you, and appreciate you.

May God bless you and yours richly.

Phil & Michelle McClain

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