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Many are afflicted with the bondage of sin and addiction. That bondage destroys people's lives. To anyone who knows the weight of bondage the idea of freedom in Christ may seem unattainable. What seems impossible to us is always possible with God! Jesus was crucified so that we will have freedom in our lives. When Jesus ascended to Heaven, the Spirit came. John 16:7 says "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." And 2 Corinthians 3:17 tells us, "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." I praise God that we are able to live lives of freedom! Free from the bondage of sin.

Our students here at Western Michigan Adult and Teen Challenge are experiencing that freedom! There are many who have come through our doors tired of the weight of sin and ready to surrender all to Christ so they too can have freedom in their lives. They are learning what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and their hearts and minds are being transformed. They have a peace and love in their heart that they never thought was possible. They are learning to let the Holy Spirit flow through them like fresh living water!



JULY GRADUATES

JEFF GOULD - I grew up in a small farming town with a loving family. At a young age I started doing drugs and drinking until a habit formed that spun out of control. All relationships with family and friends were ruined. I knew I needed help. I never knew God or went to church, but looking for help I found Western Michigan Teen Challenge and was drawn to the Lord. He has changed my life and given me hope for a bright future. **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Philippians 4:13**

AMY EVANS - My addiction started around the age of 14 stemming from bad choices and sexual abuse. It started with alcohol and tobacco progressing to cocaine and then to meth and heroin, which were my main addiction and almost took my life multiple times. At 47 years old, broken and beat down, hopeless, homeless and the mother of 2 amazing grown boys, and not knowing what else to do my sister brought me to Teen Challenge. Now I have an amazing life-changing, life-saving relationship with God. He has blessed my life abundantly and in multiple ways. There has been a huge restoration in my family and my life. Thank you Jesus! **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Psalm 23:4**



AMELIA BAKER - As a child I endured abuse that caused me to be very angry, which led me to drugs and a violent destructive lifestyle at a very young age. I have been in and out of jail and prison. I was sitting in a jail cell with no hope, feeling trapped in total despair when God showed me mercy and I was able to come to Teen Challenge. God made me whole again! All the anger and bitterness I let ruin my life for years is gone and I am filled with so much love and compassion. God has restored my life, my family and my kids. I thought I was ruined forever, but God put something beautiful back together. I have hope and an amazing future ahead of me. God has opened the door for me to serve in jail ministry. He is so good!



TORI KELLY - Growing up I was in many foster homes. I had a lot of self-image, identity and "love" issues. Because my parental relationships were unstable I had a void in me that I wanted to fill. I fell into a homosexual lifestyle, among other things such as lying, promiscuity, pot, and more. I thought that I could save myself from shame despair and loneliness with multiple suicide attempts. But I'm not alone anymore! I came to Teen Challenge and met the love of my life, Jesus Christ! I have found joy and a life worth living. I am so excited to have Him guide me for the rest of my days! **2 Samuel 14:14 (NLT) "All of us must die eventually. Our lives are like water spilled out on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. But God does not just sweep life away; instead, he devises ways to bring us back when we have been separated from Him."**

Please continue to pray for our ministry and for our students. We are so very thankful for you and will always pray for you and your family. Thank you for your giving and support too. Your giving keeps our ministry going as we continue to love the lost and hurting. Please keep praying about how the Lord would have you give. We appreciate each of you very much. May God abundantly bless you!

