

WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

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

October 2012

Dear Friends,

For the Christian, in the midst of life difficulties and turmoil, comes the sweet comfort of God's word and the Holy Spirit. Many Christian friends are going through trying circumstances, but God is answering prayer and peace is prevailing. I am reminded of the scripture in Ps. 34:19, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Paul tells the Philippians, "For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:11b-13. Paul was a man of great faith. Facing difficulties, he trusted the Lord. Paul comforted the afflicted Philippian Christians by saying in Phil. 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say rejoice." In v. 6-7 he said, "Be careful (anxiety, worry, anxious) for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

I pray God's word and the precious Holy Spirit will comfort you today in all your difficulties. God is keenly aware of your situation and He will answer prayer and give you assurance and peace. He is faithful. Amen.

UPCOMING BANQUETS You're Invited...

We invite you to attend one of our fundraising banquets and perhaps host a table of eight or more. It will be an evening of good food, fellowship, wonderful student testimonies, and inspiring music. Limited seating. Adults by reservation only. Doors open at 6:30pm, dinner served at 7:00pm. To make reservations, please call Cindy at 231.798.7927.

MUSKEGON

October 25 at 7:00pm
Maranatha Bible Conference Grounds
4759 Lake Harbor Road

Holland Christmas Banquet - (Unique/Different)

November 29 at 7:00pm
Beechwood Reformed Church
895 Ottawa Beach Road

**GRADUATION DATE
IS OCTOBER 4TH - 7:00 PM
440 PONTALUNA ROAD**

God is answering prayers for all of us here at Teen Challenge. Students are receiving answers to prayer and getting direction for their lives. Yes, God is good and faithful. And God will be faithful to you. We love and appreciate each of you on our mailing list. I pray for you. Your ongoing prayer support and financial giving is all-important to us. Thank you!

Isn't it amazing? We are already looking towards the end of the year. Please begin to pray and prepare for your year-end giving, remembering Teen Challenge as you do.

May God continue to bless you and all of yours in days to come. Together we look forward to the coming of the Lord. Rev. 22:20, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Amen

In Christ's Service,
Phil & Michelle McClain

Phil & Michelle McClain



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GRADUATE TESTIMONIES



James Lowe - I was lost and didn't know where to turn. I thank Teen Challenge for teaching me to turn to God. **Psalm 5:8-Lead me in the right path, O Lord, or my enemies will conquer me. Tell me clearly what to do, show me which way to turn. Ephesians 2:8-For by grace you are saved through faith; and not of yourselves; it is a free gift of God.**

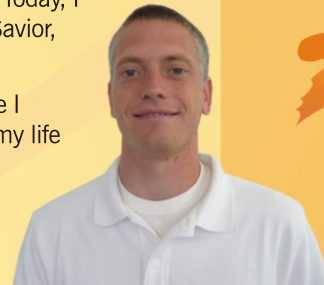
Gil Rodriguez - I am 26 years old. In 2003, I moved to Wyandotte, Michigan from Tennessee. I quickly became involved with the wrong crowd. Within 2 years, I was hooked on Xanax, Vicodin and eventually heroin. I tried secular rehabs. Due to my addiction, my family relationships were damaged. I got in trouble with the law and ended up in jail, but God had mercy and grace on me. After overdosing last year, I came to Teen Challenge. Now I have a heart for God, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and a new outlook on life.



Benjamin Zink - I am from Grand Haven, Michigan. I was saved as a teenager, however I didn't ground myself in God's Word or have an intimate relationship with Him which is essential to living a successful Christian life. During my first year of college, I began living a life of immorality and drug addiction that would last almost 2 decades. Throughout my twenties I would try to return to the Lord, but I was just searching for a "feeling" never honestly rooting myself in the Word of God or never fully surrendering. Teen Challenge has taught me through discipline and love how to truly connect with our Lord and not just to search for that emotional elevation associated with Christianity. Today, I claim victory over bondage and sin with all of the glory going to my Savior, Jesus Christ!



Ryan Hoolihan - I am 32 years old from Muskegon, Michigan. Before I came to Teen Challenge, I was in bondage to drugs and spiritually dead. I had no hope and my life was quickly spiraling out of control. This past year at Teen Challenge, God has drawn me closer to Him and given me hope and direction in my life. I am no longer driven by the enemy, but led by my Savior, Jesus Christ! **Psalm 40:2-He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.**



Charlie Dowis - I am 31 years old from Cookeville, Tennessee. I came to Teen Challenge a hopeless and broken person. For 11 years, my life was controlled by an addiction to Oxy-contin. I tried everything, methadone clinics, doctors, even secular rehab centers, but nothing helped. My lifestyle brought me to a potential 8 years in prison. God answered the prayers of my family and intervened in court, directing my path to Teen Challenge. In the last year, Jesus Christ has restored my mind, body and soul. Today I am heaven bound and have hope for my future. All thanks be to God! **Nehemiah 8:10b-The joy of the Lord is your strength.**



Desmond deBoer - I am 41 years old from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I was a full-fledged alcoholic by age 16. Pornography haunted my life since age 6. A lawless lifestyle accompanied me into a beautiful marriage that was wickedly interrupted by crack cocaine. This twisted life was a life of bondage with NO HOPE! I then grasped the voice of the Lord and surrendered my life to Christ. Since Teen Challenge, God has loosed the shackles from my feet, demolished strongholds, and has broken every chain. I am no longer a slave to sin, and I rejoice in the HOPE of the glory of God! **Philippians 1:6-For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in me will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.**



Hannah Galloway - I am 21 from St. Louis, Missouri. In February 2010, Jesus set me free from years of addiction. I began seeking the Lord, but pride kept me from giving God total control. This led the way back into a pit of sin stained with drugs and immorality. Eventually, living out of my car, I sold anything and lost everything. I was homeless, hopeless and reality struck, but God still had a plan. My family, though I used and hurt them, never let me go and didn't give up on God. They helped me get into Teen Challenge; and let me tell you, God has done an extreme-makeover on my heart! I'm so humbled and grateful to this ministry for showing me my need for God and His people. Special thanks to everyone for prayer; and support and above all, Jesus Christ for making all things possible. **John 3:30-He must become greater, I must become less.**



Jessica Binkley - I am 24 years old from Cookeville, Tennessee. I grew up in a very lost, broken home where the only way to show love was through a drunken way of violence and abuse. To escape this at 14, I got married and, at 15, had my first child. Life became what seemed impossible. In November 2009, my life shattered and forever changed when I woke up to find my daughter dead. To not feel any more, I began taking pills and shooting meth. I lost my marriage, my kids, all hope and finally my freedom. Sitting in jail hopeless, lost, and scared, I was looking at hard time due to heartless crimes I had committed while strung out on dope. I went to chapel. A pastor came to talk to me about Teen Challenge and God's love. He worked with the court to bring me to Western Michigan Teen Challenge. That's when Jesus came into my heart, the chains of bondage were broken, and I was set free. My joy and family have been restored, and I have a brand new life.

