

WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

March 2016

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A word of encouragement! Many Christians in the body of Christ are going through various hardships, difficulties, and afflictions today. We should not be surprised or discouraged for the Bible tells us in **II Tim 2:1**, "This know also, that in the last days perilous (difficult, harsh, violent, fierce) times shall come." The Psalmist said, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: But the Lord delivereth Him out of them all." **II Peter 5:8-9** says, "Be sober, be vigilant (watchful); because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." **Verse 10** is so comforting and powerful. It says, "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." With all the oppositions, troubles, and trials, today is a day to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **Eph 6:10** says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might." **Is 11:2** says concerning our precious Lord, "And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord." We Christians have the spirit of the Lord inside our lives and we can expect the same blessing of the Lord upon our lives.

Take courage in the Lord today. Rise up and be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Expect the spirit of the Lord who is your comforter, your helper by your side, to come along side you and help you in your hard times.

Prov 18:24b says, "...there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Of course that friend is Jesus.

Remember **I Cor 10:13b**, "...but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted (tested) above that ye are able: But will with the temptation (trial) make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it. My friend, keep the upward look. Keep your faith in God and His word. He will bring you through. **II Cor 2:14a**, "...thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ. You will make it. He will bring you through. Keep rejoicing in Christ.

Upcoming Get Acquainted Fund-Raising Banquets

Muskegon Banquet

April 14, 2016 at 6:30pm

Maranatha Bible Conference and Grounds
Lake Harbor Road, Muskegon, Michigan

Grand Rapids Banquet

April 21, 2016 at 6:30pm

First Assembly of God

2100 Forty-Fourth Street, Grandville, Michigan

Please attend at least one of these banquets, and bring a friend. We would appreciate you serving as a banquet captain and fill one or two tables of 8 or 16, or more with guests who need to know about Teen Challenge and who could be a financial blessing to the ministry. Hope to see you there. R.S.V.P. Barb at 231-798-7927.

The Lord keeps Michelle and I encouraged, strengthened, and joyful in the work of the ministry. More and more people keep coming into the program seeking deliverance and freedom from bondages and addictions. Thank God for the deliverance, freedom and salvation of the Lord through the cross of Calvary and Christ's shed blood. We are always thrilled to tell the old, old story of Christ's redeeming love and grace.

Also, we always thank God upon every remembrance of you on our mailing list. We thank God for you, your prayerful support, and your faithful giving to this ministry. May God richly bless you and shower upon you His great grace and favor.

In Christ's Service,
Phil & Michelle McClain

Phil & Michelle McClain

O clap your hands, all ye
people; shout unto God
with the voice of triumph.

Graduates



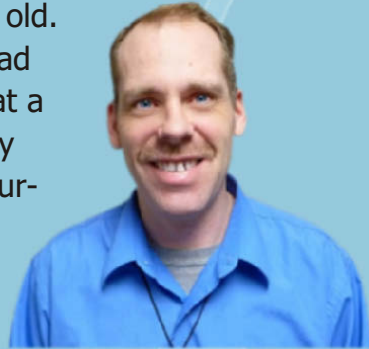
Greg Holwerda Jonathan Steward

March Graduate Testimonies on Back ▶



GRADUATE TESTIMONIES

My name is Greg Holwerda and I'm 39 years old. My parents got divorced when I was 9. My dad always took us to church, so I knew of God at a young age. Growing up, I rebelled against my parents a lot for hurting my brothers and I during their divorce. I was confused, hurt, and angry. I started hanging out with the wrong crowd at school and eventually dropped out my senior year, because I was wrapped up in drugs and alcohol. As I grew older, the drugs got stronger. Because of my heavy using, I have been in and out of about 15 secular treatment centers over the last 15 years. A year ago, my parents suggested that I go to Teen Challenge just to try it out. Praise God I did, because not only did I accept Christ into my life and heart again, but Jesus also forgave and healed me. I'm no longer in bondage to drugs and alcohol. I am free and a child of God! Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." My future is bright, thanks to the Lord and Teen Challenge.



My name is Jonathan Steward. I am 21 years old from Murfreesboro, TN. Before coming to Teen Challenge my life was complete chaos. My drug use and sinful lifestyle had brought me to my knees. I had become someone I hated. I was a liar and a thief. My family couldn't stand to be around me, and I completely rejected God. I was always told God was my answer, but I didn't believe it. I went to church growing up, but I never thought it was important. After trying secular rehabs and counseling, I felt defeated like nothing would work. I desperately needed a change in my life. Through my parents, the Lord led me to Teen Challenge. Since the day I let the Lord in my life, it hasn't been the same. He has freed me from the chains of addiction and bondage of sin. The Lord has restored relationships in my family and continues to make new ones through Christ. The Lord has given me a joy and a peace that cannot be taken away. I can confidently say that I am a new creation in Christ. I give God all the praise and glory for this amazing life change. I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for my future.

