



February 2021

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Dear Friends,

We all know that 2020 has been an unprecedented year. Like many, we here at Western Michigan Teen Challenge have fallen victim to the effects of the pandemic. We missed seeing our faithful supporters at annual events that had to be cancelled. However, we are so thankful that you haven't forgotten us! We are extremely blessed by the generous giving throughout the year 2020 and the faithfulness of our year end givers. It is because of all of you that we have been able to continue this vital ministry to the lost and broken who were trapped in the cycle of addiction throughout this pandemic. We love you and appreciate you very much! As we go into 2021 we see that this isn't over yet. Please continue to seek the Lord in prayer for us for wisdom and provision.

In this month of February I pray for love and peace in our world. Jesus was sent to earth to bring peace and hope to the lost and hopeless. Loving one another we have peace and unity. In Colossians 3:14-15 Paul says, "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." I will pray for you that love and peace will rule in your heart.

We are thankful for the many graduates that we have this month. God is doing a wonderful work in them and preparing them for fulfilled life ahead.

## GRADUATE TESTIMONIES

GRADUATE TESTIMONIES CONTINUED ON BACK

### Candi Tolar



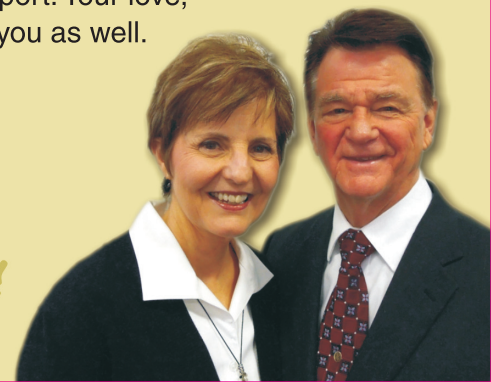
I grew up in a broken home. My mom was in and out of prison, and my dad was shot and killed. I was raised by my grandpa. I started drinking and using opiates to feel accepted and to numb the pain I had inside. Then I was introduced to heroin. It destroyed my life. I was in and out of jail, overdosed numerous times and was homeless. I hated my life. Because of God's grace I came to Teen Challenge. Now I walk in newness of life, and He has turned my heart of stone into a heart of flesh. He has opened my eyes to His truth and glory. He shows me a love I will always cherish. I have restoration with my children and family. **He lifted me out of the pit of despair out of the mud and mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. Psalm 40:2**

Greg, our Director of Facilities has been busy with repairs in the kitchen area at the Women's Center and a stove replacement. And continues with ongoing maintenance of the entire center and snow plowing.

God is faithful to help us reach the lost. New students continue to come into the program. They are excited to see what God has in store for them. Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support. Your love, friendship and faithfulness is needed and appreciated. We will continue to pray for you as well. May God's blessings rest upon you!

In Christ's Service,  
Phil and Michelle McClain.  
Executive Director

*Thank you for your faithfulness and support!*



# GRADUATE TESTIMONIES

CONTINUED



**Mike Reed**

I started using drugs at the age of 13. I broke into people's homes to steal what I could sell to make money. At 17 I moved, got a job, and my drug and alcohol addiction got worse. At 19 I married and lived a life of lies. After 35 years with my wife and 2 children, I finally surrendered to God and fell in love with His son, Jesus Christ. **At one time we were foolish disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy being**

**hated and hating one another. Titus 3:3**

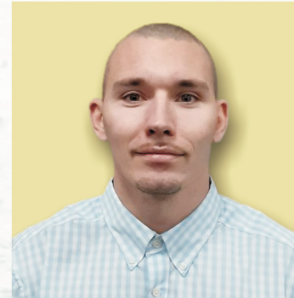
**Doug Mayle**

I spent 30 years of my life chasing drugs, alcohol, and women...anything exciting. I was full of fear and anger, living a life of total sin. My pastor introduced me to Teen Challenge. Stubborn and doubtful, two years later I walked through the front doors. Touched by Jesus, I am now a saved, God-fearing man ready and willing to step up to His calling. **As a prisoner for the Lord, then I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Ephesians 4:1**



**Joseph Graves**

I was on a long road of drug abuse, a criminal life style, 7 overdoses and even being shot. I was looking at 36 months to 30 years in prison. The Lord had mercy. Only God could fix this broken man within. Where correction failed, love didn't. Through Teen Challenge my relationship with God has strengthened, and I learned a life of true serving. After 38 months of being locked away from my family, I am finally free spiritually, mentally, and now physically. I thank God! **Brothers I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14**



**Stacey Salacina**

Growing up abusing drugs seemed normal in my family. I have spent the last 20 years or more fighting with addiction. I came to Teen Challenge depressed, full of anxiety and anger, and walking in shame. I knew this could be my last chance. Through Teen Challenge God has done an amazing work in me. No longer do I walk in shame. Relationships are being restored, and I know how to fight my battles. At last I found a life-saving cure. His name is Jesus Christ. **I praise you because I**

**am fearfully and wonderfully made your works are wonderful I know that full well. Psalm 139:14**