

WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

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

September 2015

Dear Friends,

The scripture says in Heb. 13:5b, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." This is the promise of God to every believer.

- Do you feel that life has dealt you the most severe hardships? Jesus is there.
- Do you feel like you just can't take anymore? Jesus is there.
- Do you feel like friends and even family has forsaken you? Jesus is there.
- Do you feel the pain of lack of finances? Jesus is there.
- Do you feel like family problems or marital problems have overwhelmed you? Jesus is there.
- Do you feel you don't know which way to turn in life or which way to go? Jesus is there.
- Does sickness rack your body with pain? Jesus is there.
- Do you have concerns about the future? Jesus is there.

No matter what the situation or problem is you are facing, "there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." "He will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." I know you have faith in God. Exercise your faith, and watch God work miracles. "For all the promises of God in Him are yea (yes), and in Him amen (so be it)." He has not forgotten you. You are on His heart. He certainly will meet you at your point of need. Michelle and I love you in Christ. We will be praying for you.

THIS MONTH'S GRADUATES

GRADUATE TESTIMONIES ON BACK.

Wendy Wright

Jovan Granberry

Maggie Hodorowicz

Earl Barnes

Anthony Wozniak

Amanda Blankenship



RECORDING SESSION

We plan to go to Nashville and finish the recording session the end of this month. CDs should then be available within six weeks. Thank you for your patience.

BUILDING REPAIRS AT THE MEN'S CENTER

Ken, who is in charge of maintenance, along with Greg and certain students are working hard to make certain repairs and needed improvements. We appreciate these men so much.

UPCOMING GET ACQUAINTED BANQUETS

Grand Rapids Banquet

September 24, 2015 at 7:00 pm
First Assembly of God
2100 Forty-Fourth Street, Grandville, Michigan

Muskegon Banquet

October, 15 at 7:00 pm
Maranatha Bible Conference Grounds
4759 Lake Harbor Road, Muskegon, Michigan

Holland Christmas Banquet

December 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Beechwood Reformed Church
895 Ottawa Beach Road, Holland, Michigan

Your attendance and participation in inviting guests and filling a table of eight or two tables of sixteen guests is most appreciated. Please let us know the number in your party at least two days in advance. Contact Amber at 231.798.7927. Thank you so much.

Michelle and I are delighted to be in this ministry and watch our Lord bring about such drastic changes in the lives of people. The bonds of drug addiction and alcoholism are being broken. Our services and altars are filled with people praying and weeping their way through to God. There has been a great influx of people in the last two months. We need your continued prayers and financial help. Thank you for being so faithful to God and this ministry. All of us here at Teen Challenge say "thank you" and may God bless you. Remember, you are important to God and to us.

In Christ's Service,
Phil & Michelle McClain



GRADUATE TESTIMONIES

My name is **Amanda Blankenship**. I'm 43 years old from Lansing, MI. I came from a broken home and was raised by loving grandparents. After high school I became pregnant and married to provide a proper life for my children. When my marriage ended in divorce, emptiness, pain and hurt consumed my life. I began to use alcohol to numb the pain. My addiction eventually led to several DUI's, and in 2014 I had lost everything and I was facing prison time. While I was in jail, I cried out to God and He gave me peace about my future. By the grace of God, the judge granted me the opportunity to come to Teen Challenge. Through this ministry, God has delivered me from all my guilt, shame, and the hurt from my past. The verse I stand on is James 1:2-4: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."



My name is **Wendy Wright**. I am 48 years old from Ionia, MI. I was raised in a non-Christian home. When I was 12 my parents' divorce left me broken-hearted. I became rebellious and turned to drugs to escape from my pain. At 17, I became instantly addicted to cocaine because it gave me a false sense of confidence and made me feel accepted. My drug abuse eventually led me to selling drugs, prostitution, numerous run-ins with the law, and admittance to several secular rehabs. After a failed suicide attempt, I cried out to the Lord and He gave me a chance to begin again. Since coming to Teen Challenge, I have been washed clean by the blood of Jesus. I now have freedom from the chains of sin that robbed my life. Today, God is my source and I give Him all the glory. Philippians 3:13: "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before."



My name is **Maggie Hodorowicz**. I'm 27 years old from Chicago, IL. I grew up Catholic; knowing about God, but never knowing just how much I needed Him. Witnessing the destruction that alcohol caused in the lives of people I cared about made me believe I would never become like that. Over time I felt a void in my heart; a loneliness and emptiness that I tried anything and everything to fill, but nothing ever satisfied. Chasing after the things of the world left me broken and hopeless. Living a life of compromise and hiding my sin led me to attempt suicide several times. I was deceived into believing that my life had no value. Since coming to Teen Challenge, God has set me free. He has opened my eyes to the truth and He has shown me that He has a good plan for my life. He has completely transformed me from the inside out. 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."



My name is **Anthony Wozniak**. I'm 19 years old from Chicago Land, IL. My parents divorced when I was 5, leaving my mother to raise me on her own. We attended church and I knew right from wrong. From a young age, I moved around a lot, and wasn't able to establish lasting friendships. Beginning in middle school, I began hanging out with the wrong crowd, making poor choices, and smoking marijuana. By the time I was in high school, I used drugs regularly, abused prescription drugs, failed classes, and became very depressed. At 16, I spent 12 months at an adolescent Teen Challenge. Upon leaving, poor choices led me even deeper into drug abuse and depression. After getting kicked out of my house, my godmother took me in and suggested going to Western Michigan Teen Challenge. During my time here, I have grown spiritually and mentally. I have decided to give my life to Jesus, and I plan to work at the adolescent Teen Challenge helping others who are struggling. Philippians 4:8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."



My name is **Earl Barnes**. I'm 33 years old from Sparta, TN. I grew up in a so-called Christian home and was normal by appearances. But the reality of living in a home in which I suffered physical and emotional abuse left me feeling anger and pain. At 15, I turned to drugs and alcohol to numb my feelings. It quickly turned into an addiction that took me down a long, dark, self-destructive and hopeless road. In my brokenness, I pleaded for help, and Jesus heard my cry. He guided my steps to Teen Challenge and forever changed my life. Today, I am happily serving the Lord and I have a great hope for my future in Him. Lamentations 3:55-58: "I called on your name, O Lord, from the depths of the pit; you heard my plea, Do not close your ear to my cry for help! You came near when I called on you; you said, 'Do not fear!' You have taken up my cause, O Lord; you have redeemed my life (ESV)."



My name is **Jovan Granberry**. I'm 23 years old from Saginaw, MI. I grew up in a Christian home with loving parents who took me to church regularly. After the traumatic loss of a friend, I rebelled against God, isolated myself, and began to experiment with drugs to self-medicate. From that point, I was always chasing the next high, and it led me down a very destructive path. After two overdoses last year, I hit rock bottom and turned to God. I'm so thankful that God had his hand on me. It is by His grace that I am alive. Since coming to Teen Challenge, God has shown me love like I've never known before. He has filled the emptiness in my heart to overflowing. Today, I look forward to the future that God has in store for me. Philippians 3:13-14: "No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us NLT)."

