

WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

August 2018

440 PONTALUNA ROAD | MUSKEGON, MI 49444 | 231-798-7927

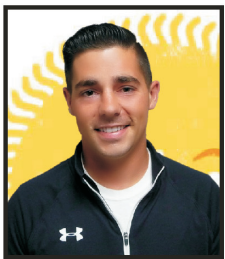
Dear Friends,

Hebrews 6:10 says, "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward His name..." All of the work and labor we have done here at Teen Challenge on behalf of the kingdom of God has been for His honor and glory. He is not unrighteous to forget our work and labor of love that we have showed to His name.

Every time we do something for the well-being of others, it's like we are doing it unto Jesus. Matthew 25:40b Jesus said, "As ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." I Corinthians 15:58b says, "Your labor is not in vain in the Lord." Any time you or we have done anything for God, it is not in vain. It is glorifying to Jesus.

Each one of you on our mailing list are helping lost souls come to Christ, and they are being established in the Lord here at Teen Challenge. Your giving, prayers, and acts of kindness to us and this ministry will be rewarded. It is certainly not in vain. God will not forget your work and labor of love that you have shown to His name. Thanks for being a part in helping so many souls come to Christ. We love and appreciate you.

We have several people graduating from the program this month. I would like you to see them and hear of the great blessing you have been to them.



AUGUST GRADUATES



Cody - I am 27 years old, born in Trenton, New Jersey and moved to Michigan back in 2011. This is when I became addicted to opiates and various other drugs. Bad choices led me in and out of institu-

tions as well as jail. I wound up facing prison time. On May 4, 2017, I arrived at Teen Challenge. **GOD WORKS!** My life is being restored. I can remember looking in the mirror a year ago, desperately wanting to crawl out of my own skin. I could not stand the sight of my own reflection, now I can see myself conformed to the image of God. As though Christ is looking back and smiling at me. My life verse is **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.** To God be the glory.

Rebecca - I'm from Whitehall, Michigan. I became dependent on prescription pain medication after my first surgery. Numerous surgeries led to the removal of my left kidney. At the same time, I had been trying to fill this void in my heart that yearned for love. I was looking in all the wrong places. I dated abusive men both mentally and physically and their words began to define me. I not only used drugs and alcohol to relieve my physical pain, but to hide and mask the pain of a broken heart full of despair. I was injured on May 21, 2017 and suffered a triple brain injury. I could not walk and was 85 pounds. Jesus came to seek and save the lost and that is what I was. I should have been dead, but because of the miracle working power of God and his grace, I am alive! This brought me to Teen Challenge where God has filled that void in my heart with His perfect love. He is the only one that can define who I am. He has given me this peace and joy that is unexplainable. He has renewed my mind and today I love the woman He has made me into. When I look in the mirror, I see His reflection inside of me.

MORE GRADUATE TESTIMONIES ON BACK

These testimonies of the graduates are a real encouragement to me, and I am sure they are to you as well. **Truly our labor is not in vain in the Lord.** Stand with us in prayer as we have recently had many new ones come into the program. The process of discipleship is just starting for them.



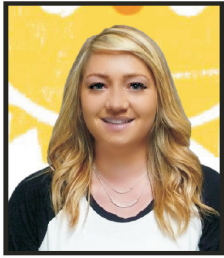
Now, thanks again for your prayers for us and your financial gifts of love to this ministry. Each one of you on our mailing list are important to us. We love you and pray for you on a continual basis. May God bless you richly.

Yours in Christ for the sake of the gospel,
Phil & Michelle McClain, Executive Director

Phil & Michelle McClain

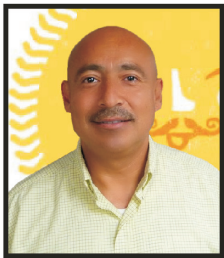


AUGUST GRADUATES cont.



Kelly - I am Kelly and 23 years old. Growing up, drinking was how my family coped. I became a mother at 15, so I had to grow up fast. After going through many trials and not knowing how to deal with them, drinking is what I turned to so I could cope. The more I drank, the more I hated myself. I started to make reckless decisions like drinking and driving and putting myself into dangerous situations which led me to trouble with the law. By the Grace of God, he delivered me out of them all and spared my life. Since coming to Teen Challenge, not only have I learned how to live a new life, but my family received salvation and restoration. God has restored me

and given me love for him and myself.



Carlos - I am 51 years old and from the Washington D.C. area. I grew up in a Christian family surrounded by pastors, missionaries and elders of the church. I began to drink socially at a very young age. At 29, I was at the top of my career and doing very well financially. I started to hang with the wrong crowd, and was introduced to drugs for the first time. I began to use cocaine which led to more drinking. For the past 20 years, I have battled on and off with addiction until last year when I lost my family. I woke up in the ICU, a heartbeat away from death. A pastor visited me and told me about Teen Challenge. I came here and the Lord began to

work in my heart. He gave me His Spirit, made me a new creation, the old man is crucified with Christ, and I stand before you as a child of God. That is my story for His honor and Glory.

Jason - My name is Jason, and life wasn't always as good as it is now. Early on, insecurity over took me and sent me on a crash course for jail, remorse, and a brokenness like I never dreamed possible. Marijuana led to prescription pain medication, which led to methamphetamine use. The first time I used, a cloud came over me as I fell deeper into a pit. I thought all was lost and there was no hope. After a failed suicide attempt, I knew I needed help. I had heard about Teen Challenge through a family member; and after all, anything had to be better than the fear and anxiety I was living in. When I got to Teen Challenge, I was met with such love and compassion. A brotherhood like I have never seen. Through this program God has reached into my life and shown me exactly who He is and who I am. I will never look back! I am now living every day with peace, love and joy as the Lord intended. The verse I stand on is **Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."**



Eugene - I am 47 years old and was raised in a Christian home and actively involved in church. At the age of 10, I was molested and exposed to some things that changed my attitude toward God. I began drinking and smoking marijuana to cope. As the sin in my life progressed so did the use of drugs. I found myself in jail, institutions, rehabs and prison. In August 2016, I was facing 35 years in prison. As I sat in jail for 10 months, I cried out to God for His complete deliverance from the bondage of sin. I entered Teen Challenge in June 2017. Here I have learned to put my complete faith and trust in God. I am free. **Psalm 107:1-2 reads, O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy...**



Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might