

# WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

May 2018

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

Dear Friends,

In **John 8:12** Jesus said "I am the **light** of the world: (the source of all spiritual knowledge and eternal life)." Then He said "He that followeth me shall not walk in **darkness** (spiritual ignorance and sin), but shall have the light of life (the knowledge of spiritual life and eternal life)." In **John 10:10** Jesus said "The thief (devil) cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." Then He said "I am come that they might have life (spiritual and eternal life) and that they might have it more abundantly." **John 3:19** says "That **light** is come into the world (truth and righteousness through Jesus), and men loved darkness (sin and evil) rather than light (truth and spiritual life), because their deeds (actions) were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his evil actions be exposed."

We live in a sin-benighted world. A world overtaken by darkness, moral ignorance, and sin. As Christians, we must proclaim the **light** of the world, **Jesus Christ**. He is the only one who can lead people out of the darkness and blackness of sin, and bring spiritual and eternal life. **In our evening staff prayer meetings**, we are praying for the many drug addicts, alcoholics, and the morally impure in America. As we pray, they continue to come into the program. They are coming to Christ and getting help. Thank God, through Jesus Christ, there is help for the lost sinner.

40th ANNUAL

# BIKE THUN

Saturday, June 16, 2018

This is a great event. We usually have about 100 riders. We ride from Holland, MI to Grand Haven. Yes, it is a fundraiser. In fact, usually one of the best of the year. Riders must raise a minimum of \$200 to ride. However, some raise thousands to win prizes. First, second and third place winners for raising the most finances will receive prizes.

The ride starts in Holland at 10:00 am. After the ride, friends and family are invited to join us for the prize presentation, a brief evangelistic service, and a great BBQ. Please join us for the ride. **For sponsorship forms, more information, or to sponsor a rider, call Teen Challenge at 231.798.7927 and ask for RJ or David.** You may also sign up online at [www.wm-tc.com](http://www.wm-tc.com).

## Graduate Testimonies

(TESTIMONIES CONTINUED ON BACK)



**Chad Herrema**

I grew up in a great church with all the knowledge of God, but no real relationship with Him. I never made a true commitment to Him. Therefore, I struggled through life on my own strength, slowly compromising my lukewarm relationship with God. I relied more and more on alcohol to deal with my problems until I ended up divorced, angry, bitter, depressed, deceived, blinded, empty and totally hopeless. After twenty years of struggling I lost everything. Finally I came to the end of myself and ended up at Teen Challenge. Jesus met me with open arms - full of love, compassion and forgiveness. He has set me free, opened my eyes and ears, and is healing and restoring my life. I finally have true hope, peace and joy. He has saved me! I am so excited to seek Him and see what He has new for me every day.

Thank God for the graduates this month. Each of them are experiencing a new life in Christ. Old things have truly passed away, and all things are become new. Thank God for the ongoing miracles happening here at Teen Challenge. You on our mailing list are a big part of these miracles. Your prayers and financial giving are a real asset to this ministry. Thank you for being a part of these changed lives, as well as those continuing to come into the program. All of you mean so much to the students, staff, and Michelle and I. May God bless you richly.

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

*Phil & Michelle McClain*





# Graduate Testimonies...CONTINUED



## Joe R. Collazo

On April 10, 2017, I came to Teen Challenge a broken man. In every way, I was defeated by the enemy of this world. I was raised up as a Christian in New York City. One day in my teen years, I made a terrible decision to step outside the will of God not knowing the consequences I was about to experience! I got involved with just about every drug out there, but heroin became my drug of choice, not knowing that one day this drug could kill me. My drug use spiraled out of control and took everything from me. A war took place within me. The enemy had His stronghold, and I wanted to break free. I cried out to God to please forgive me. Days later, I came to Teen Challenge. Today, I can say, "Thank you, Lord Jesus, for a new life."



## Jacquelyn Smith

IV use of heroin and morphine, pills and alcohol covered feelings that I never dealt with or knew how to deal with. I had a lot of anger built up inside. After multiple jail stays and hospital stays from overdosing, my mom sought out Teen Challenge. I knew something in my life had to change. I didn't even believe in God before coming to Teen Challenge, but I opened my heart to the Lord and He filled it with His love! He has helped me deal with so much from my past. I now have a relationship with the Lord and not things of this world. God has opened my eyes to the beauty of life, and I no longer have to carry guilt and shame. I stand on Gal. 2:20, "**I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live,**

**yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and my life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."**

## Brandon Will

This time a year ago I was engulfed in the lifestyle of heroin addiction. Every morning I woke up feeling hopeless and sick, ready to die. My whole life I had low self-worth, deep rooted insecurities, fear of the future, guilt from the past and a God-sized void I kept trying to fill with drugs, women, money and anything else in the form of sin. I look back and clearly see where God's hand has been on my life. He has just been waiting for me to reach out and grab it. It is only by God's grace that I am still alive today. Teen Challenge has allowed me to take the much-needed time to build a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, plant His word in my heart, and let Him into the areas in me that needed healing and change. I am excited to walk in the steps the Lord has laid out before me.



## Kathy McDonald

I was molested at the age of 7. At age 8, I was taken away from my mother. These 2 events set me on a very dark path and an identity of worthlessness, emptiness and ugliness. I knew everything I did in life would never please or be good enough. My daughters grew up, and I started drinking heavily to forget. In 2017, my stepmother passed and a few months later my father passed. I came to the end of myself! I just wanted to end the darkness of this world that was within me. My praying brother and his wife got me to Teen Challenge. Three days after I arrived, I accepted Christ into my heart. At Teen Challenge, I have learned so much about myself and about my walk with the Lord. Today, I love who I am in Christ. Psalms 31:4 and 5, "**Free me from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit, redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth."**



## Roger Merrell

The love of Christ had changed my life at 23 years of age. I did everything I was taught by my pastors over the years. I prayed, shared the gospel and then some. I'm not saying I was perfect, but never thinking I'd fall back into the very things God delivered me from many years ago. But I took my eyes off Jesus and His forgiveness and started to focus on myself which led to one bad choice after another. This past year has given me the time to put my focus back on the forgiveness found in Jesus and to grow to be the man of God, the husband and the dad He has called me to be.

