

WESTERN MICHIGAN TEEN CHALLENGE

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

April 2016

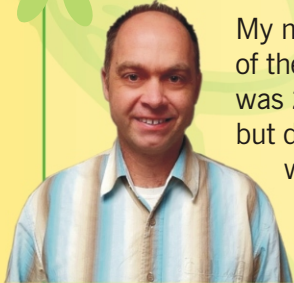
Dear Friends,

As the Psalmist was writing **Psalm 45**, he said, *"My tongue is the pen of a ready writer."* **Why not?** For He would be writing about our glorious, majestic king, the Lord of glory. **The Psalmist said in verse 6-7 NLT,** *"Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. You love justice and hate evil. Therefore, God, your God, has anointed you, pouring out oil of joy on you more than on anyone else."*

We serve a great king today. He is Jesus, the Lord of glory. He is majestic. The only Lord and savior. I love Him. He is working miracles here at Teen Challenge on a daily basis. **He is binding up the broken hearted, bringing liberty to the captives, opening the prison to them that are bound, He comforts all that mourn, He gives them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.** He is delivering people from fear, anxiety, sin, the powers of darkness, drug addiction, alcoholism, moral impurity, and on and on the list goes. He is bringing freedom, love, joy, righteousness, a future and a hope of eternal life. Their lives have never been so complete, free and full.

I want **Brenna** and **Jason** to share with you about the freedom and joy they have found in Christ.

Hi, my name is Brenna. I'm 31 years old from Grand Haven, MI. When I got to Teen Challenge on April 1st, 2015, I was hopeless, broken and angry. I was also detoxing from alcohol and feared I wouldn't make it through another detox. The night I arrived, my sisters in Christ laid hands on me at an altar, and I was supernaturally healed. I didn't suffer any of the symptoms that in the past have required medical treatment. The Lord gave me that gift, in order to keep my feet planted, so he could work miracles in my heart and mind. Since coming to TC, the Lord has delivered me from alcoholism and from the shame and guilt that kept me in bondage. I have a hope I never thought could be restored to me, and today, **"The joy of the Lord is my strength" ~Nehemiah 8:10.** I am so grateful for the vessel of Teen Challenge that has shown me God's love and taught me his Word. I know that the Lord holds my life and my future in his hands, and I plan to follow him all the days of my life.



My name is Jason. I am 41 years old, from Sydney, Australia. All my life, I have chased after the approval of the world. I knew about God, but never understood what it really meant to be a Christian man. When I was 21, I married a beautiful woman from Kalamazoo, MI and now have 4 children. God has blessed me, but desires for the world consumed me. This led me to an alcohol addiction which nearly destroyed me. I was bound by my guilt and shame. My marriage was all but over. Satan had me by the throat. I dropped to my knees one night, cried out, and the Lord spoke to me, **"I've always been here waiting for you to turn back to me."** Jesus took my hand and that moment I knew God was going to take me on the ride of my life. In April 2015, I made the commitment to enter **Western**

Michigan Teen Challenge. I surrendered everything to God. He has delivered me and set me free from addiction and all my guilt and shame. My marriage has been restored, and I can be the husband and father God created me to be.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING BANQUETS

We have two upcoming get acquainted fundraising banquets. These banquets will be different, full and unique. You won't want to miss the one closest to you.

Muskegon Banquet

April 14, 2016 at 6:30pm
Maranatha Bible Conference and Grounds
Lake Harbor Road, Muskegon, MI

Grand Rapids Banquet

April 21, 2016 at 6:30pm
First Assembly of God
2100 Forty-Fourth Street, Grandville, MI

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.

As you can see we stay very busy at Teen Challenge. All of us here work hard, pray a lot, and purpose to stay spiritually alert and help as many people as we can to find their way to Christ...for it is in Him and Him alone that they can come to the salvation of the Lord.

Michelle and I, the staff, and the Teen Challenge students thank all of you for your prayers and financial support of this ministry. We need you and you are a great blessing to us. Please keep this home missions ministry and all of us here on your heart. And please, keep praying for us. We love you dearly.

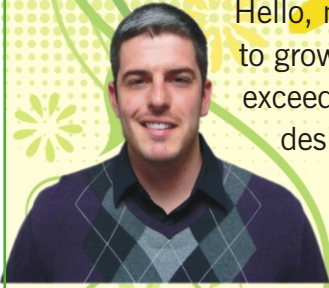
Yours in Christ Jesus,

Phil & Michelle McLean



TURN OVER ▶

Graduate Testimonies



Hello, my name is **Michael Ledford**. I am 26 years old from Livingston, TN. I was blessed to grow up in a loving home with great parents. I played sports and was active in school. I excelled in golf and hanging around country clubs, I was introduced to all kinds of sinful desires and started down the wrong path with the wrong people. What started as recreation, ended up in addiction that ruled my life. After several years of feeding my selfish desires, I hit rock bottom. Beaten and broken, I cried out to God and begged for a way out. My prayers were answered through a great Godly man, Pastor Tim McLaughlin, who led me to Teen Challenge. My time in the program has changed me dramatically. God has done great things in mine and my family's lives. I am excited to see what my future holds. Even though I am not sure what it holds, I do know that through Christ all things are possible. That thought truly is exciting to me. The verse I stand on is **II Timothy 1:7, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."**

My name is **Patrick Banks**. I am 21 years old and originally from Chicago, IL. My dad graduated from Teen Challenge when I was 3 and raised me in a good home. We always went to church, but I never had a relationship with God. In the 5th grade, my cousin opened the door to drug use for me. I was still able to participate in 3 different sports, with football being the one I excelled in the most. During my high school years, I became a star athlete on my football team, but struggled with the party life style. I did not realize how much of an impact that lifestyle would have on me. I went on to play college ball, but tore my MCL, which ended my career. Instead of leaning on Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, I dove deeper into drugs and the approval of others through that party lifestyle. The spiral downward into sin quickly consumed me. I eventually found myself lying and stealing to feed an addiction to drugs, but that's the old man, praise God! My sin led me straight to jail. It was there that I realized I needed Christ. Soon after, I was presented with the opportunity to enter Teen Challenge. Here, I discovered the peace and love of our God Jesus Christ. God has forever changed my life. **Galatians 5:16 says, "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."**

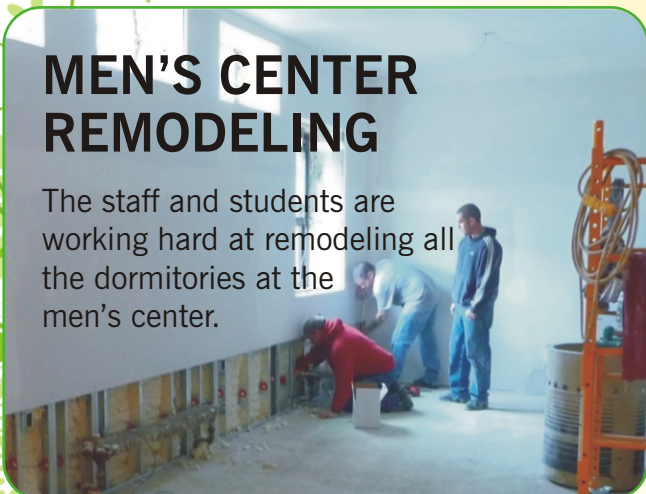


Hello, my name is **Jacqueline Yates**. I am 31 years old and come from McMinnville, TN. My home life was very broken. At a young age I witnessed the effects of addiction and abuse. My dad was a severe addict, and my mom received a lot of abuse by his hands, which finally resulted in divorce. Unfortunately, I followed in their footsteps of addiction and abuse and broken marriage. I was an I.V. Meth addict by the age of 28. I was also in a severely abusive marriage that nearly cost me my life. However, God intervened when I was unable. I was arrested due to my drug use and was facing multiple years in prison. It was then that I cried out to the Lord, and He heard my cries! Since arriving at Teen Challenge last March, my family is being restored, and I have a hope for my future and a reason to live. The verse I stand on is **Jonah 2:2, "I cried out to the Lord in my great trouble, and He answered me. I called to you from the land of the dead, and Lord, you heard me!"**

Our next graduation date is Thursday, May 5, 2016, 7:00 pm At Western Michigan Teen Challenge.

MEN'S CENTER REMODELING

The staff and students are working hard at remodeling all the dormitories at the men's center.



ALUMNI GET-TOGETHER

Our next alumni gathering will be Friday, July 22, 6:00 p.m. at Teen Challenge. Save this date on your calendar so you can attend.

