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MESQUITE, TEXAS



## THE JOURNEY...

***"For I know the plans that I have in mind for you", declares Adonai, "plans for SHALOM and not calamity – to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 (TLV)***

Dear Friends,  
A familiar scripture for Teen and Life Challenge students is Jeremiah 29:11.

Our students - the results of your investments - have found comfort and encouragement in that verse over the years. However, for some time, I have believed there is actually more encouragement and wisdom in these words than we have realized. Even when we walk / experience challenging times – God IS "there".

During the last 34 years we have experienced many results of the Lord with us and we are SO THANKFUL! Each day as we have multiple opportunities to build relationships and disciple others, we are reminded of God's faithful family who sends assistance through prayer and support.

*See JOURNEY Pg 2...*

## WHERE ARE WE ON THE JOURNEY?

This year many more students will graduate. Graduation marks the beginning of something more than the end.

Certainly, a course of study and development of Christian character will (or must) continue. Hard work, undoubtedly. But it is all preparation for the next phase of life. Graduation ceremonies are called "Commencement Exercises" because something new is commencing – beginning.

Regardless of how far each student goes, none will remain at THE LIGHTHOUSE forever. After graduation, each student moves on to the next phase of their life. We trust they will, in turn, be making disciples based on what they learned while here at The Teen and Life Challenge Lighthouse.

Your participation with development of THE LIGHTHOUSE is preparing many for a new life! You are making a huge impact. We know that recidivism rates plummet and God's Kingdom soars when people have been changed by the Word of God. And, that's the commencement of God's New Order.

**SAVE THE DATE:  
2016 TLC BANQUETS!**

July 22, July 29 and August 5!  
(Locations to be announced)

The experiences we have had these past 34 years have solidified our commitment as Christian leaders - advocating for those with life-controlling problems.

One of the greatest accomplishments is the completion of the residential LIGHTHOUSE facility.

### **THE NEXT BIG STEP IS PAYING DOWN THE LOAN.**

YES, we've received some LARGE GIFTS and we are Blessed with many other financial blessings. Several families have included us in their wills and we prayerfully encourage others to consider that option.

We know that God has commissioned the local church to bring change to this world. He will accomplish His purposes through His people – the Church. The faith-based nonprofit impacts the community.

We are cautious with our support and we are prayerfully thankful for each gift.

### **WHAT ARE WE HOPING TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE COMING MONTHS?**

We will complete the sale of our office building – for a healthy profit – which will immediately help to liquidate some of our indebtedness.

We will also explore relationships with new individuals and

organizations, enabling us to extend our reach into more areas: **BUILDING BRIDGES AND RESTORING HOPE.**

We are trusting that your prayers and support will increase with confidence.

*Yours in Service Above Self,  
Paul and Linda Ecker*

*P.S. We are very thankful for The North Texas District Loan Department who have worked with us in each detail.  
Bless Each of Them!*

## SOME YOUR SUPPORT HAS HELPED...

My name is Cody. I am 20 years old and I have been in the program a little over a year. I came into the program broken, hopeless, lost and desperately needing God.

At first, I had a difficult time in the program. I fought until I couldn't any more. I finally allowed God and the principles of the Teen and Life Challenge program to work in my life. Now, a year later I can say that I am no longer broken – I have hope and a future in Christ Jesus. The verse I stand on is Philippians 4:11 – ***"Not that I am in need of anything, but I have learned that in whatever state I am, to be content."***

*(You can look forward to seeing Cody as one of our choir directors at the Banquets!)*





*Working their way to the top of the ladder.*



*Not just men love to eat. TLC team's up with local charities to feed children in DFW.*



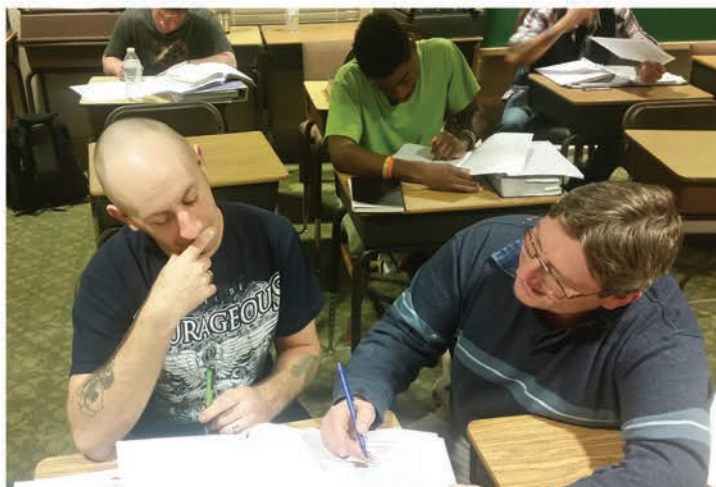
*The standard view of a choir...*



*Ever wonder what it looks like from the other side of the choir?*



*In the classroom - student teachers provide a literal head scratcher.*



*Line by line. Precept by precept.*



## TOMORROW?

Over the years we've heard many stories of lives saved through TLC., like this month's note from Cody. This past November my 20 year old nephew Kody - and I - ran out of time. He had a life controlling issue: depression. He lost hope, and took his own life in despair. As family and friends it's true that it's not our responsibility to make decisions for our loved ones - they make their own choices. But what good is hope if we don't share it with those who have none? If you have a loved one struggling, say something today. Sometimes there are no tomorrows.

- TN (contributor)

## KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS TLC?

1. Call 214.824.6181 to discuss your situation. Ask for Paul. If I'm "active", I'll get back to you later. My objective is to give others the opportunity to receive Christ.
2. If you live within 1 hour, you will be requested to come in for an interview in Dallas or Desoto.
3. If you live over an hour from these locations, you can order the application packet - \$25 - complete and mail in.
4. If the choir is scheduled in your area, you will be invited to attend the service and an interview can be scheduled after the service.

## HOW 2 HELP?

We are in need of two vacuum cleaners, laundry detergent and boxes of cereal. We appreciate our history! We need assistance for the NOW! Thank You!

## DONATE ONLINE WITH PAYPAL!

Through the PayPal, Inc. connection you can now make contributions to TeenLife Challenge of Dallas with credit cards online! Just go to the TLC website (teenlifechallenge.com), Click support TLC and click DONATE from the drop down.

## THANK U, THANK U, THANK U...

**CHRISTIAN CENTER OF MESQUITE..**  
Christian Center of Mesquite - These "third Monday of the month gracious chefs" prepared a PLENTEOUS and DELICIOUS meal of Lasagna, Salad, Cheesy Garlic Bread and amazing desserts!

## TEENLIFE CHALLENGE @ YOUR CHURCH?

We are a North Texas District "Home Missions" ministry. Call 214.824.6181 or email us at [egh.tc@hotmail.com](mailto:egh.tc@hotmail.com) to schedule a choir and speaker. Contact us soon to get "your date" scheduled! YES we're anticipating Wednesday evenings or other special activities. We will size the choir and our part to your schedule. Thanks!

## AMAZON.COM & U CAN HELP!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support TeenLife Challenge every time you shop.

Just go to the "While You Shop" page (link found under the "Support TLC" navigation button\*) on our website (teenlifechallenge.com) and use the Amazon Smile / TeenLife Challenge of Dallas Inc. special link. Then select TeenLife Challenge of Dallas, Inc. as your charitable organization.

That's all there is to it! Amazon will now donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to TeenLife Challenge of Dallas Inc. when you shop at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com)!

## BUILDING FUND...

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our goal of balancing to Z E R O during 2016!

2016 BUILDING FUND		MONTHLY DONATION
\$ 600	is only	\$ 50 / mo.
\$ 1200	is only	\$ 100 / mo.
\$ 1800	is only	\$ 150 / mo.
\$ 2400	is only	\$ 200 / mo.
\$ 3000	is only	\$ 250 / mo.
\$ 3600	is only	\$ 300 / mo.
\$ 4200	is only	\$ 350 / mo.
\$ 4800	is only	\$ 400 / mo.
\$ 6000	is only	\$ 500 / mo.

## KROGER SHOPPERS CAN HELP TLC!

Link your Kroger Rewards cards to TLC (NPO number 82019) and help us through the Community Rewards program. For details on how to sign up or link your card to TLC, visit our website at: <http://www.teenlifechallenge.com/shop.php>