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MESQUITE, TEXAS



## LOST, LOST, LOST?

***"...Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35***

Thank you for your prayers as daily we are challenged to respond to those who come looking for HOPE! What a life-changing experience to

watch as men's lives are being changed by the love of Christ.

Some Parables that challenge us are found in Luke 15: *The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin and The Lost Son!* A retired pastor in another state made the CONNECTION: a son in his upper 20's-homeless-cold-messing with drugs – "dropped" out of college

after 2 years – lost his job – for meth! We know from experience – the ANSWER – the SOLUTION! Isaiah 55 *"...Come without 'ANYTHING' but come...!"*

It is through Christ and your compassionate support that THE LIGHTHOUSE is a home where lives are being redeemed and families restored!

## THEIR WORDS...

TLC's RECENT GED Graduates share their testimonies:

Before I came to TLC my life was shrouded in darkness and chaos. I had no direction except for the path that led straight to Hell. The Word says it this way: **"...broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it."** (Matt. 7:13b)

My relationship with my family was completely broken, but when I came into Teen Challenge things changed. I gave my life to Christ and he gave me another chance. He gave me a new name and a new purpose. He opened my eyes and showed me the truth through His Word.

His Holy Spirit leads me step by step, every day, and since then my relationships have been restored. God is good. He has given me the opportunity to advance in life by getting my GED while in the TLC program. After I complete the TLC program, I look forward to going to college. I thank the Lord for bringing me to a place like Teen Challenge where I have the liberty and right environment in which to learn to focus on God.

The scripture that I stand on is Micah 6:8: **'He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'** - Alex

I was born and reared in Mesquite. At the age of four my father died of a heart attack with a secondary cause being alcoholism. When I was six my Mom remarried and the guy was emotionally and physically abusive. By the age of 14 I had been sexually abused by my Mom's "best friend", which messed me up psychologically.

I turned to drugs to repress my feelings and emotions. I was in and out of drug rehab

programs, but didn't believe any of them had the answer to the rut I was in. During all my rebellion and drug use my grandparents never gave up on me. They continue to be a very strong Christian influence in my life. Yes, I had gone to church regularly and knew about the Lord, BUT I had never accepted Him into my heart.

Two weeks after I came into Teen Challenge I give my life to Jesus and have experienced a drastic change in my life. My depression is gone and I have a new-found motivation. I look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for my future. Completing the GED



Alex & Zachary awarded their GED Certificates

program was a goal! December 17 I was awarded my GED Certificate of Completion!

I thank God for the brothers in the 'program' because they give me the courage to keep on moving forward. God has broken the chains of my tobacco use and drug addiction. I can't thank God enough for all the positive things he is doing in my life.

The Scripture I stand on is Romans 8:18: **'I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.'** - Zachary

**CHRISTMAS WAS DIFFERENT BECAUSE OF MY TRANSFORMED LIFE:**

I was overwhelmed with the benefits of being able to go home for the Christmas / New Year Break. Obviously, seeing and visiting with my family made me grateful. But it was also a real pleasure to show my family how my life has changed – I am a new man with my walk now being one with God.

Having my wife and kids say they 'love the new Charlie' made the idea of my being gone from them and fixing me all worth it – the best feeling I've had in quite a while. Being able to overcome and conquer temptations while at home was exciting. Being able to actually say 'NO' and walking away with a smile is something I had not done in 20 years and gave me a sense of accomplishment – as if we had won the Super Bowl!

The love and joy I received from my family as they saw the change in my life could make this convict cry. As much as it hurt to leave them again, I was glad to come back and finish the race. On my next visit I know I will be a stronger Christian and a better dad. - Charlie

"Christmas break was rewarding on multiple levels. Not only was I able to spend quality time with every member of my family, but I was able to resist the temptation to drink. Being able to spend time (sober time) with my family and go to church multiple times created a bond between us that we lacked before.

Praise and thanks to God and Teen/Life Challenge for the opportunity and place to focus on learning to live the Christian life!" - Ryan

## IN MEMORY OF...

These MEMORIAL GIFTS received by Teen/Life Challenge

### **In Memory of Larry Mallory**

Given by South Central United Food Workers' Union & Employees Assoc.

### **& In Memory of Brady Brackin**

Given by Joan McEwin



TLC at D1AG. Sitting while someone sings to them for a change...



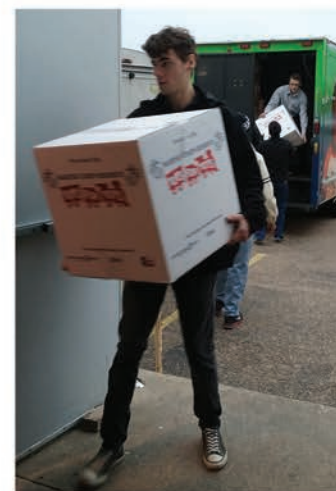
Dallas First Assembly of God's Christmas Cantata.



Doing all things as unto the Lord...



Unpacking presents for Metro Ministries Christmas Store



Toys for Tots, courtesy of the USMC



Brisket & cheesecake - a traditional Christmas meal for TLC at D1AG



Chuck, Asst. Fac. Mgr. - LIGHTHOUSE



Another Personal Studies Unit Completed

## THANK YOU!

...to **ALL of you** for the gracious and sacrificial Christmas "bonus" for our staff and trainees! They all join the Board of Directors in a genuine NOTE OF APPRECIATION!

...to **HUTCHINS BBQ** for a most gracious donation of prepared ribs and sausage! Yum!

...to **Southside Assembly** for housing TLC Administrative offices.

...To the **pastors & churches where TLC ministered during January**. We appreciate your hospitality and look forward to the next opportunity. Please tell others...

...to **Our Volunteer Instructors** – Dr. Neil Agnes, Dr./Pastor Marcus Alexander, Dr. Ty Davenport, Pastor Mike Eddy, Dr. Ernest Martin, and Dr./Pastor Mike Mitchell

And last, but not least

...**OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!**

## SPECIAL NOTE:

*If you have an 'EXTRA' \$575,000 to ASSIST our Lighthouse Residence Indebtedness - I will sing a solo (after the crowds have left) during the 2017 District Council. Thanks for Praying & your Past Generosity.*

- Paul and Linda Ecker

## HOW 2 HELP?

We have a continuing need of **Oven Cleaner, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent** and **SAM'S Gift Cards** to purchase "convenience foods" for lunch on class days.

## A NEW WAY TO BLESS TLC!

**APPROVED / SIGNED BY CONGRESS... ANOTHER CREATIVE WAY TO BLESS TLC (and save you taxes!)** If you are 70 1/2 or older, you may request the trustee of your IRAs to annually transfer up to \$100,000.00 tax free of your Required Mandatory Distributions (RMD) to Teen/Life Challenge, an "approved" 501(c)3 organization. The funds must be transferred directly by the IRA trustee (bank or investment company) to Teen/Life Challenge in order for it to be tax free to the donor. We suggest you talk with your accountant / financial adviser who will be able to walk you through the process.

## SHOP AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way to support TeenLife Challenge. Go to the "While You Shop" page (link found under the "Support TLC" button on teenlifechallenge.com) and use the "AmazonSmile / TeenLife Challenge of Dallas Inc." special link. Select TeenLife Challenge of Dallas, Inc. as your charitable organization. Amazon will now donate 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to TLC!

## DONATE WITH PAYPAL!

- Through the Teen/Life Challenge web site - Go to [www.TeenLifeChallenge.org](http://www.TeenLifeChallenge.org)
- Find the Donate Tab and Follow Instructions provided there!
- You will be able to donate through Paypal... Mastercard, Visa, American Express, Discover, or your bank are available.
- You may also leave a note such as Building Fund or use as desired

## NEED HELP?

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.

## NOW SCHEDULING CHOIRS FOR 2017

We are a North Texas District "Home Missions" ministry. Call Shelby at 972.533.0541 to schedule a choir and speaker. YES... we are anticipating Wednesday evenings and/or other special activities. We will size the choir and our part to your schedule.

THANKS!

Shop with your **KROGER NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR** card or **ALBERTONS COMMUNITY PARTNER** card, and a portion of your purchase price can go to support TLC. Don't have a card? Call us today! Thank you Kroger & Albertsons!

