

# Greater Piedmont Teen Challenge, Inc.

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## NEW BEGINNINGS

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I grew up in Mount Airy, NC. I had a very peaceful childhood, playing sports and spending time with my family. I played sports all throughout high school and actually planned to play college football at Guilford College. But, I moved to Greensboro right out

of high school and from there I started experimenting with the party scene. I had lost my identity in sports, so I decided the next best thing for me to try was the social aspect of life. I wanted to fit in with everyone, so I started drinking. I had quit the football team. I transferred from Guilford College to the University of North Carolina at Greensboro for my sophomore year. It was during this time I started experimenting with other drugs, trying to fit in. I started smoking marijuana by the end of my sophomore year and that habit quickly took off. From then on, throughout my college career, I was drinking and smoking, and then I tried cocaine.

I was able to graduate from the university despite all the partying. This is when I thought I could make something of my life. I quickly found out that being successful in the world was all I was trying to do. I couldn't find a decent job quickly enough and I let my disappointment fuel my addiction. By this time I had just started experimenting with pain pills and that took off very rapidly. The more time I spent without being "successful," the more I continued to spend money and use.

Despite my addiction, I was able to keep a relationship with a beautiful and loving woman who eventually had our baby daughter. I thought having a daughter would help me kick my bad habits and start living right. By that time, however, I was too far into it. I couldn't get out of it in my own strength. My girlfriend stayed with me but she continually caught me in lie after lie. The enemy had a foothold on my life and I quickly started thinking that I wasn't supposed to be with my girlfriend. I thought I was missing out & continued running from what God had blessed me with.

It was December of 2015 and my girlfriend finally

had all she could take of my lies, deceit and my selfishness, so she left me. I thought in my mind, "This is for the best. I will be okay living by myself." I was so numb to emotions, I didn't even care she was leaving me. I was happy because I thought I would be able to do what I wanted again, and having no accountability was what I wanted in my life.

After several months of this I finally came to my breaking point. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 I lost my job because I failed a random drug test. I had finally hit my bottom. I was tired of taking money from my family and not being responsible for my daughter. I called my mother and I asked her to pray with me over the phone. I didn't know how God would do it, but we asked the Lord to show us what He wants out of my life. The next day a Godly woman from the local church I had been attending, texted me and asked me to call her. I called her later that evening and she offered to sponsor me to come to the program called Teen Challenge. I didn't know what to expect but I had nothing left. I decided to say yes and see what God had in store for me. Since coming into the program on October 17, 2016 I have been nothing but thankful. It hasn't been the easiest ride, especially at the beginning and being away from my daughter, but I know for a fact that this was in God's plan for my life. I look forward to the next steps God has for me and I'm so thankful for His forgiveness, grace, and mercy. The Lord never gave up on me and neither did my family. I am forever grateful.

In the future, I hope to give back to Teen Challenge and try my best to help people dealing with the same struggles. I want to be a positive influence on people. The Lord is good to those who realize they are nothing without Him and call upon His name.

*Bobby graduated on May 5, 2017, and is presently serving an internship at Greater Piedmont Teen Challenge. Bobby has a great heart and is full of love for the other students. God has a plan and a purpose for His life and we are excited for him and his future. To God be the Glory!*

*Dr. Bob*



## Place your orders on Amazon.com?

Choose Greater Piedmont Teen Challenge as your designated charity and we will receive a donation from Amazon because of your purchase. This is called Smile.Amazon.Com Program. Check it out next time you order through Amazon.

### Remember our UPCOMING EVENTS:

6th Annual

# Iron Chariot Ride

Benefiting



## June 24, 2017

Registration 9:00 Kickstands up 10:00



Escorted Ride begins at



**\$25 Rider**  
**\$5 Passenger**  
Coffee, Doughnuts and Lunch will be provided



**THE FRESH MARKET**  
**Krupp Home**  
**Harris Teeter**  
Highwoods Blvd W. Gate City Blvd Greensboro Guilford College

Contact Mike Williams Sr. at [williams@gladwellinsurance.com](mailto:williams@gladwellinsurance.com)

### Rock the Block Outreach, August 11-12th

at Greater Piedmont Teen Challenge. Join us as we reach out to our community. There will be lots of fun in the field behind Teen Challenge. We will be sharing the gospel with our neighbors. Join us. Contact Patrick Link, our Outreach Coordinator, at 336-292-7795 x 306, to find out how you can help.

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**September 9th**

**Grandover Golf Tournament**

**Sponsored by Foreign Cars Italia**

Visit our website for more details  
[www.gpteenchallenge.com](http://www.gpteenchallenge.com)



Ruth Russell

We would like to remember one of our dear and faithful prayer ladies, Ms. Ruth Russell, who went to be with our Lord on March 23, 2017. Ruth was a faithful friend of Teen Challenge since the 1980's. She worked as a staff and volunteered for many different positions. In the early days, Ruth was the kitchen supervisor and dietitian.

Ruth joined WATCH (Women's Auxiliary of Teen Challenge), in 1991. The WATCH helped Bro. Dennis start the Thrift Store, Blessingdale's. Ruth was on the ground floor of this project.

Ruth prayed for the students and encouraged them to stay strong in their faith and finish the program

In 2003 Ruth joined a team of prayer ladies and volunteered every Tuesday.

Jesus told the story of the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:23. Jesus said, "His Lord said unto him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.'" The faithful servant and worker in this parable describes Ruth Russell. Ruth had a great attitude and strong faith. She was a wonderful addition to our staff and volunteer ministry team. She was a delight to have on campus.

We will remember Ruth with fondness and we are thankful for her years of ministry at Teen Challenge. We also want to honor all the ladies who have been part of our prayer team, affectionately, "The Prayer Ladies." Each Tuesday morning we have a great team of ladies who gather in the chapel to pray for the students, staff, board and needs of the ministry.



Prayer ladies pictured are Jeri Mathias, Brenda Bishop, Sue Mitchell and Marilyn Dickey. (Not pictured: Carole Mezzapelli and Barbara Moser.)

God will always raise up workers to do the job of the ministry. Thank you to each lady who has ever been part, or is part, of this vital ministry. Prayer ladies, we honor you.