



◆ **Prison Ministry** ~ York Correctional Institution

◆ **Home** for women and their children

◆ **YCMW Partners**

◆ **Financial Support**

◆ **Sponsors for beds** ~ (8) Looking for people who will be challenged to commit to an ongoing donation to help sponsor a student bed

**Special Thanksgiving Pie Offer!!!**  
**HELP US TO HELP HURTING WOMEN!** ~ Buy 5 *Homemade* Pies For Thanksgiving And Get A Free *Chocolate Creme* Pie

Pumpkin - \$8



Apple - \$8



Cherry - \$8



Sweet Potato - \$8



Choc. Creme - \$8



Blueberry - \$8



Cheesecake - \$10



Deadline for pickup 11/21/07

Call us at (860) 527-2000

Financial donations or ingredients are welcomed!

*Ingredients needed: Butter, Cream Cheese, Cool Whip, Crisco Shortening, Evaporated Milk, Flour, Pure Vanilla, Sugar and Other Baking Items*

**Friends!, Families! and Alumni!**

**Please join us for these**

**Upcoming EVENTS**

**YC GRADUATION BANQUET**

October 13, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.  
 Plainfield Town Hall  
 For Tickets, Call (860) 728-5199

**YC ALUMNI SERVICE**

November 23, 2007  
 7:00 p.m.  
 221-225 Greenfield Street  
 Hartford, CT 06112

**YC ALUMNI HOMECOMING BANQUET**

February, 2008  
 For More Information  
 Call (860) 728-5199



**YOUTH CHALLENGE MISSION FOR WOMEN**  
 321 WOOD STREET  
 HARTFORD, CT 06105  
 (860) 527-2000 - FAX (860) 525-5790  
 EMAIL: mfwyc@youthchallenge.org  
**THE REV. MARVA DOWNES, DIRECTOR**

**YOUTH CHALLENGE MEN'S HOME**  
 15-17 MAY STREET  
 HARTFORD, CT 06105  
 (860) 728-5199 - FAX (860) 524-0418  
 EMAIL: infoyc@youthchallenge.org  
**DR. PAUL ECHTENKAMP, DIRECTOR**

**YOUTH CHALLENGE BIBLE TRAINING CENTER**  
 111 STERLING ROAD  
 MOOSUP, CT 06354  
 (860) 564-8400 - FAX (860) 230-0851  
 EMAIL: ranchyc@youthchallenge.org  
**THE REV. TYRONE GLASPIE, DIRECTOR**

# Yc HELPING THE HURTING

A Publication of Youth Challenge of Connecticut, Inc. (Mission For Women Edition) Fall 2007  
**DR. RAUL GONZALEZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** P.O. Box 763, Hartford, CT 06142 www.youthchallenge.org

## 20 Years Ago - I Crossed The ~ Line ~



The Reverend Marva Downes,  
 Director

On March 29, 1987, I crossed the line from being a secular employee to become the Director of Youth Challenge Mission for Women (YCMW). It was a transition that would impact my life forever. Helping women to regain their identity, self-esteem, and dignity was all part of the journey.

During the course of these many years, I have learned how to be patient, caring, understanding and non-judgmental with hurting women. I realize that in most cases, it is out of past pain and hurt that they react negatively to situations and to authority. Such behavior should not be taken personally.

I must admit, it is not always easy to show love and compassion to individuals who at times reject your counsel, resist the help that you are giving to them, leave the program and waste time, before calling back for re-admittance. Neither is it a pleasant experience when they misunderstand or misinterpret your actions. *But, through the unfailing love and supernatural strength of The Lord Jesus Christ*, the staff and I have been able to overcome the challenges and persevere with them through the healing process.

I thank God for all of the women who have successfully completed 18 months in the program of YCMW, united with their families, gained

employment and gone on to higher education. *I SALUTE YOU ALL!!!* Allow me to join the Apostle Paul and say. *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy."* Philippians 1:3,4. Now, a word to those of you who read this newsletter and sense the need to make a transition in your career to enter the service of helping hurting people: **DO NOT BE AFRAID TO CROSS THE LINE** - the benefits may far exceed anything you could have ever done for yourself or for your family.

A **"HUGE"** thank you for being a YCMW partner who has walked this journey with us in helping needy women. Please continue to support YCMW with your consistent prayers and financial support. Your labor of love and giving will not be in vain! Please make your checks payable to: Youth Challenge of CT., Inc. and in the memo write "MFW." God Bless!

In His Service,

*Rev. Marva Downes*

The Reverend Marva Downes, BA  
 Director

**Cross The Line**  
*Cross The Line*

*P.S. The staff and students (the women) pray everyday at a specific time for all needs. If you would like to send in your prayer requests, they will be presented to The Lord Jesus Christ. Hundreds of petitions have been answered!*



Tina

Hello! My name is Tina. **I am a wife, and a mother of four.** My parents were divorced, so I started looking for love in all the wrong places. I started smoking marijuana in the ninth grade. I smoked morning, noon, and night. I got married at a young age. I started committing adultery. I was riding around with a handsome young guy. I was also letting him use my minivan. It was fun! We were staying up all night getting high. I didn't know he was robbing people. I found out the hard way. One day I found myself being chased by a green Intrepid with four guys in it. They were shooting at me. I drove through stop signs and red lights. I made it to the police station without any bullets in the minivan or myself. **Man wanted me dead, but God wanted me to live.** I went on the run. My mother told me "Tina, your children need a mother," so I came here to Hartford, CT. I came to my cousin, Pastor Carol Bishop. She told me that she knew a place that would take care of me. It was Youth Challenge Mission for Women.

When I came here I was messed up. I was scared of my own shadow. I thought everyone wanted to kill me. They gave me a verse to study, 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV) **"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self discipline."** I

learned this verse. I'm no longer afraid of my own shadow. The only one I fear is God. I am also drug free. I was reunited with my family for Christmas and New Year's. Now I am better able to deal with other issues as well, such as lust, anger and deceit. My leaders are helping me with these areas of my life. I am very blessed. I thank God for Elder Marva, Sis. Shari, Sis. Diane, Sis. Robyn, and Deacon Shirley for helping me through this hard time in my life. I also want to thank Bishop Raul and Lady Willie Gonzalez for having a vision with me in it.

**Renovated Kitchen**  
~ 2006 ~



Out With The Old Kitchen...



In With The New!!

**Thanks To:**

*Rhonda Downey, The Inglese Family, Fellowship Community Church, The Trinity Methodist Church, and The West Granby United Methodist Church*



Old Fence



**Renovated Fence**  
~ 2007 ~



New Fence



Lisa

I thank Bishop Raul and Lady Willie for listening to God's voice and acting on it, they saved my life. I thank God for giving me a beautiful Spiritual Mother (Elder Marva), full of wisdom, and led by God. I thank God for Glory Chapel, the church. Being a drug addict, the church made me feel comfortable, not ashamed. It is hard to believe that more than 18 months ago I was sitting in a crack house, and now I am in church. **Only God could do this!!**

I was raised in a Christian home. When I was 18 years old, a friend of my mom prayed and prophesied over my life. She said I was going to be like Jonah and run from God, but I would also be swallowed by a whale, and spit out. I was also going to help women with the same issues I had. From then on, I always felt uncomfortable around her. I was on my way to college, and I had no issues. I thought that lady was crazy. **But God knew my future.**

I guess you could say I was running from God. Living a wild life of partying and immorality, being successful, single, and with no children, I thought was a free ticket to being irresponsible in my life-style. I was blind to myself.

I didn't realize that having a couple of drinks with friends would lead to marijuana. Then, smoking marijuana was an open door for cocaine. Flirting with cocaine led to smoking crack.

This process didn't happen overnight, it was gradual, over an 18 year period. Giving into one drug made it easier to give into the next. I went from being a sales manager having a six figure income to being homeless.

I let crack destroy my life. Crack possessed **ALL** my assets, and also took my respect and trust from me. **Crack was my master, and it owned me.** I was living in my car and hotel rooms. I lied, manipulated, stole and sold my soul to support my habit. The worst feeling for me was the loud knocking on the hotel room door, telling me to leave. I had no place to lay my head and have peace. I would wake up with no money, no place to go, no plan, no purpose, no hope, and no future.

**But God!!** He set a YCMW alumna in my path. She gave me a piece of paper with 7 numbers on it, and told me to call and I would have peace. I wanted to reconcile my relationship with my parents, so I agreed to a program. I did it to make them happy. I also thought this program would be a safe place to stay until my ex-fiance's 30 days of incarceration would be up. But those 30 days have turned into two years. God showed me what love truly is. It always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres.

YCMW invited me in and showed me love and compassion. They gave me an old Bible, the cover was even worn off. The only verse that was highlighted in that Bible was Jer. 29:11 **"I will bless you with a future filled with hope, a future of success, not of suffering."**

The Lord is my future, He is my hope, and He is my success. I learned more in the 18 months at YCMW than I did in 6 years of college. **What I learned here will last me for eternity!** I graduate on October 13 and I am looking forward to continuing as staff at the Women's Home. If it is God's will, I plan to go back to college and complete my degree. Presently, I am attending Corinthian School Of Urban Ministry to learn how to help hurting women. **I have a passion to help the hopeless!**

God knew 18 years ago that YCMW would "swallow" me up. I'm in the whale right now, submitting to the Lord, and learning the importance of obedience. I have a personal relationship with the Lord, and I love to be in His presence. I'm excited to see what my future holds. I want Jesus to use me. God is my master now, and He owns me. **I believe the best is yet to come!!**

**Good News!**



**April Jessup** was accepted into Mercy University of Medicine, Macon, GA. She is doing graduate studies in Public Health.



**Jennifer Glaspie**, alumna, was licensed as a Reverend on July 13, 2007.