

Phebe Newman, above, holds Felix Garcia while they listen intently to Teen Challenge's part during an evening service at the Church of the New Testament. Melvin McKinlay, below, does his part as he hands out literature to people walking along Main Street.



TEEN CHALLENGE Religion Cure

Text and Photos By Susan McKinney -

"I want to show people through my life that I have something they need," said Orlando Rios, explaining his commitment to a Christian way of life and to Teen Challenge, which he said had helped him kick his 5-year heroin habit.

Orlando, having completed the teen challenge program which uses religion to combat drug addiction, is a staff member at the Rochester Teen Challenge center.

The center on Alexander Street gives ex-addicts a place to live while they develop self-realization, study, work and prepare to go on with Teen Challenge work or to take up some other productive place in society.

Teen Challenge was originally founded in New York City by Rev. David Wilkerson, an Assembly of God minister, but the organization is nondenominational. Faith

Orlando Rios, center of photo at right, lets his feelings show during a recent chapel service at the center on Alexander Street.