

Dear Friends,

The scripture says in **Romans 13:11**, “...now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.” I remember my dad and mom talking about the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ way back in 1949 or 1950. Now, here we are in 2017, and we are still awaiting the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ for His people, the church. Jesus **promised** us in **John 14:2-3**, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” So why does our Lord seemingly delay His coming? It seems like all Christians are so ready for Him to come back and to take us to that beautiful place called Heaven. A place where there will be no more tears, no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. The Bible tells us in **II Peter 3:3-4a**, “There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, where is the promise of His coming?” Our Lord is waiting for those last ones to come into the fold. **James 5:7-8** says, “**Be patient** therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman (God, our father) waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth (precious souls), and hath long patience for it, until He receive the early and latter rain.” The early rain refers to the fruit from Pentecost (the outpouring of the Holy Spirit) and the days of the early church. The latter rain refers particularly to 1906 (Azusa Street revival in Los Angeles, California) through today. I want to encourage you from James 5:8, “**Be ye also patient**; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” Hang on in faith folks, our Lord is soon to come. “**Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.**” It won't be long now!

Meanwhile, we want to be about our Father's business and win as many lost souls to Jesus Christ as possible. We only have a little window of time to still labor for our Lord Jesus Christ. We want to make every moment count. We are believing God for a real ingathering of souls this year. We are believing for many to come to know Jesus Christ, be born again, and make Heaven their home. Please pray with us, believe with us, and join us by helping us with your faithful financial giving. We certainly appreciate you and love you.

Our goal in 2017 is to lift up the name of Jesus and see many souls come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Your help is so appreciated. Thank you for standing with us all these years. Thank you for praying with us, and thank you for your faithful support. All the staff, students and Michelle and I love you dearly. May God bless you richly. “**One day the sower and reaper will sit down and rejoice together.**”

Your Friends In Christ,
Phil & Michelle McClain

Phil & Michelle McClain

Spring Fundraisers

Grand Rapids Banquet

March 23, 2017 at 6:30 pm, Doors open at 6:00 pm
First Assembly of God
2100 44th Street SW
Grandville, Michigan

Muskegon Banquet

April 20, 2017 at 6:30 pm, Doors open at 6:00 pm
Maranatha Bible & Missionary Conference
4759 Lake Harbor Road
Norton Shores, Michigan

We invite you to join us at one of these events. Would you also consider helping us fill tables with friends and family who could be financial blessings to the ministry. We appreciate you and hope to see you there! R.S.V.P. to Brenna at 231-798-7927.

GRADUATES

Read the graduates' testimonies of victory through life in Christ on the back.



Sarah Remenar



Michelle Johnson



Samantha Rands



Taylor Freeman



Graduate Testimonies



Samantha Rands - I'm 29 years old, the proud mother of 5 children, and from the Muskegon area. I was introduced to alcohol after high school, and it was a black out experience from the very first time I drank. There was never an in between or a casual drink for 12 years. I tried to remain a good mom and be the provider, as well as a good daughter; but in 2015 my world finally came crashing down around me. I lost yet another job, got evicted from another home, faced another OWI charge, and was in a custody battle I knew I was going to lose. Yet, I could not stop. On January 4, 2016, I attempted suicide by alcohol consumption but God had other plans. The next day my parents told me about Teen Challenge. Teen Challenge has provided the opportunity for me to renew my relationship with the Lord and allow Him to fill that void. I'm so grateful for the second chance He has given me to be a Godly mother and a light to this world. "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." -Matthew 6:33 (NIV)



Taylor Freeman - I'm 26 years old from Cookeville, TN. At a very young age I started to struggle with panic attacks and depression. I didn't understand or know how to handle it. I was prescribed antidepressants, which ultimately led me to my addiction with prescription meds. I was always trying to fill a void in my heart that only God could fill. I hated looking at myself in a mirror, and my health was deteriorating. I thought there was no hope, and I cried out to God in a jail cell. He heard me. I had lost myself, but God had other plans. I was given the opportunity to come to Teen Challenge. While I was here, He not only restored my life, He redeemed it! My chains have been broken, and I'm excited and thankful He is using me for His glory to be a light in a dark world. I thank God for this ministry. I didn't know who I was, but now I know whose I am. I am a child of God. Job 33:27-28 says, "He will declare to his friends, 'I sinned and twisted the truth, but it was not worth it. God rescued me from the grave, and now my life is filled with light.'" (NLT)

FAITH



Sarah Remenar - I am 35 years old from Nashville, MI. I've spent my life searching for my identity in my career as a nurse, as a mother to my four children, and as a wife. After 5 years of IV drug use and multiple attempts of trying to get sober, everything in my life that I placed before the Lord had to be stripped away, for Him to reveal to me my identity in Christ. Even though I'm still believing on the Lord's promises to restore my broken marriage and family, I stand on His Word in Romans 8:28 that says, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose." (NKJV)



Michelle Johnson - I was born, raised and lived most of my life here in Muskegon. I have 2 beautiful grown girls and 3 wonderful grandchildren. When I was a teenager, I drank to fit in. After I had my children, I only drank on occasion. Then about 13 years ago, I would drink on weekends, and it continued to grow to where I was drinking every day and needed it just to survive. I tried to move away to Nevada, but that didn't change anything. I came back to Muskegon for the birth of my second grandson and missed it. This brought me to Teen Challenge. Here I found God, and he has totally changed my life. He has released me from depression and alcohol. One of my favorite verses is Numbers 23:19, "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind."

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness