



MICHAEL'S TESTIMONY

My name is Michael McHugh and I am thirty two years old. I would like to share my testimony with you of what God has done in my life. I grew up in an unsaved home until the age of twelve. My parents broke up when I was young and my father brought me up as best he could while he was in and out of relationships. My childhood got quite rough at times and because we were constantly moving around, I really lacked stability.

When I was twelve, I had to move in with my Aunty and Uncle because my dad could no longer look after me. After attending church with them

for a few months, I knew that there was a void in my life but I didn't know what to do about it. I asked my Aunty about it and she explained to me that I was a sinner before God and in need of His salvation. I believed Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again on the third day so that I could be forgiven and receive the gift of eternal life. The Bible says in Acts 16:31 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved". It was then asked I the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive me and to save me.

A few years went by, and we moved to Brisbane and started attending Good Shepherd Baptist Church. I started to grow more in the Lord and was baptized. Although I was attending all the services and read my Bible occasionally, I had never surrendered my whole life to God. When I was eighteen, I moved out with my cousin and during the next few years I walked away from the Lord. I began moving from state to state and from job to job. I found out first hand that there is no lasting joy in the world. God never gave up on me but used different circumstances in my life to bring me back to Him.

One night while I was out drinking on the Gold Coast, I came back to my car and found the roof caved in and the front windscreen smashed. I found out later that where I parked was where police officers used to park their cars and my car was mistaken for one of theirs. The police told me that they caught the person who had done it but that there was very little chance of getting any compensation for it. I could see the Lord's hand in this as my lifestyle at the time was worldly, empty and going nowhere. God had

brought me to such a low point in my life that I knew that I could not go on like I was any longer. The Lord, as a loving Father, was working in my life and convicting me that I needed to come back to Him. I knew that for things to change in my life I needed to be where He wanted me to be, but I had no idea how God was going to bring me out of the vicious cycle I found myself in. Then one day a cheque arrived in the mail for \$500 as compensation for what had happened to my car. Under usual circumstances, I would have blown the money on alcohol and cigarettes, but the Lord put it in heart to put this cheque on top of my cupboard, knowing that God was going to use it somehow to help me come back to Him. Over the next few weeks, three more government cheques of about \$500 each arrived in my letterbox.

I fixed my car and the Lord gave me the opportunity to come to Sydney to work for Andrew Holowaty, my cousin's husband. Not long after moving to Sydney, I started attending Victory Baptist Church. One by one God started to point out areas of my life that were not right. Some things weren't as easy to let go of as others but the Lord gave me victory over sin. During this time, I surrendered my whole life to the Lord and began building a good friendship with my future wife, Dani. In 2003 we got married and the following year Pastor Williamson asked us to be leaders in ProTeens, the high school youth group at Victory Baptist Church. I saw this ministry as a great opportunity to serve the Lord and can see how God used it in my life. I learned about biblical leadership and more of His Word as I served, prepared messages and encouraged the young people in their walk with the Lord. Through completing a number of Bible College extension courses at Victory, I gained a greater understanding of the Bible which has helped me to be ready always give an answer to every man (1 Peter 3 :15).

The Lord had blessed us with three wonderful daughters. Through this, God has taught me not only the responsibility of leading my family to follow Him, but I can see the love of my heavenly Father for me in a greater way as I consider my daughters and my love for them. The Lord truly is good and is worthy to be praised. As always, He is faithful and has kept His promise in supplying all my needs and more. I thank God for what He has already done in my life and want Him to use me to do His will. Joshua 24:15 says "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD**".