

Michael McGee

Testamony



I was born in a mid-sized town in Alabama. Growing up around a college town had its ups and downs. My family went to a large church there and acted like a good church family. When I was six years old, I felt a void in my life. I couldn't put my finger on it, but I knew that there was something missing in my life. During the sermons I would listen intently as the pastor talked about how I was not a perfect person and was on a path to hell. I listened as he told me about the saving grace of Jesus Christ and how he died for my sins. Always being one to act on my feelings (usually at the drop of a hat) I told my parents, who always sat in the balcony, that I had to go to the bathroom. My mom still laughs when she tells this story. She says that she thought that I was on the way to the bathroom and was shocked when she saw me walking down the aisle. When I got down to the front of the church I told the pastor that I wanted to know Jesus. The pastor walked me through the plan of salvation and prayed with me. I remember, even that long ago, him telling me that my relationship with Christ was just that, A Relationship. He made sure that I knew that being a Christian was more than going to church on Sundays. Well, that Sunday I joined the church as well. My family joined the next Sunday and re dedicated their lives to Jesus.

Well, several years had passed and I stayed active at my church. Again I felt the call of the Lord, but it was slightly different. I was thirteen and I felt that God was calling me into the ministry. I again spoke with my pastor and prayed about Gods will in my life. I was learning to play guitar during this time and started playing during services. I met several like minded musicians and we talked about playing as a Christian music group of sorts. It was during this time that I started studying martial arts (Tae Kwon Do). It wasn't until I graduated high school that I had an opportunity to follow Gods will unimpeded. While in high school I was active in the commercial art department of the school and was guaranteed a job in the art department of a large local business in town. When I graduated I went and applied and was given the job. When I got home from the interview I had a message to call a buddy who I knew was in a Christian band. He told me that they needed a lighting engineer and knew that I was capable of handling the gear. I did not feel either excitement because he wanted me to run their light system or disappointment because I wanted to play guitar instead of running lights. I felt a peace about it and left to travel with the ministry for about six years on and off. The groups focus was to bring the church together. We attempted to tear down walls that hindered Gods spirit in the church. We tried to bring people together from several different aspects, from denominational differences to racial differences; the goal was still the same. During this time I traveled all over the country and fell into the role of the guitarist for the group shortly before disbanding in 1998. The group separated for a few reasons. None were negative. Several in the group married and we had felt that our commitment to each other was fulfilled. Our goals had been met and we left on a good note. The group reformed and I was able to play guitar full time. I really enjoyed being able to minister in that capacity.

Well being married demanded that I get a real job and I started working at a local Wal-mart. I made my way up to a management level position and stayed there for about two years. I stayed there until September 11th, 2001. I remember being at work during that horrible day. I decided that day to go into a public servant role. I went and spoke to an army recruiter and the local police department to weigh my options. For some reason the police called first and I was on my way to the police academy. While at the academy I served as the Chaplain. After graduating the academy I decided to get back into martial arts. I started studying with a local teacher. Though I took from him informally, he taught me a lot on what it is to be a martial artist. Along with my martial arts, I studied and sent myself through several instructor level courses at the law enforcement level. I had a desire to keep my law enforcement brothers and sisters safe while they were on the street. I worked at that department for about five years and left to pursue a career at a higher paying job at another department a few hours away. After working for a while at my new job I was able to attain my black belt in jujitsu. While at the department I became frustrated at the current state of law enforcement training and with the support of a few officers I decided to start teaching on the side. I spoke with my pastor and asked him about using the church as our training hall. During our conversation he asked if I ever thought of using the class as an outreach. I had never really thought of it and the more I thought of it the better it sounded. I started teaching strictly law enforcement and opened the class up to the children of law enforcement. The class morphed into what it is today and now I currently have around 12 youth and 6 adults. In the short time the class has been offered at the church we have grown more than I expected. I am still training and am currently interested in Japanese Jujitsu and its derivatives, Filipino martial arts – Arnis de Mano and Law Enforcement related use of force issues.