



MICHAEL'S TESTIMONY

For people who don't know me, I'm Michael Golden. I was raised in a strong Christian home, going to church every Sunday, and reading every night. I knew all about Jesus and what He had done for us, but it all somehow went in one ear and out the other.

Around the age of 16-17, I started hanging out with old friends from school, starting going to parties, drinking, drugs, meeting girls and thought it was great. I moved out of home at 19 into my girlfriend's at the time. I was almost never going to church at this time and when I split up with my girlfriend, I really went off the tracks. I made new "friends", got into harder drugs and alcohol and started sinking into depression. I didn't know what else I could do to fill this hole in my heart. I eventually got back with my old girlfriend and we decided to move up to Newcastle where we could make a fresh start. But it wasn't meant to be. We broke up a second time and I was alone up here. I fell badly back into alcohol, drugs and always searching for a good time. My mates would laugh at me because it was very rare to see me sober. But still I was far from happy. Most of my night were spent at home drinking till I dropped, trying to forget it all. One night earlier this year, I called my mum, my angel, in tears. I couldn't go on, what was the point. She prayed with me and gave my number to Pastor Charlie who called me later that night and shared his testimony. It took me a few weeks to build up the courage to go back to church after everything I had done, but once I did I kept going every week. But I still wasn't saved. I tried working on my life, thinking I could make myself better and then be saved but ended up frustrated week in and week out.

This was until one Sunday night, the 2nd of June, where I was scheduled to work and was called off because of the rain, so I decided to go to evening service. After church a man came up to me and shared his testimony with me and how he had tried to make himself right, but couldn't and instead, he had just handed it all over to Christ. I broke down; we went outside and prayed. I just asked God to take over

my life because I couldn't do it anymore. He answered me, as I got up it felt like a weight had been lifted off of me. I thought, "Wow, so this is how it feels to be saved!" I actually felt truly happy for the first time. I'd known all about the gospel all these years, but it was that night where Christ opened my eyes and it all made sense to me. What God has done in me since then has been awesome! I've tackled huge sins in my life and finally been able to win. I pray for His patience and strength every day to keep fighting the battles I face. I praise Him for what He has done for me, how he has changed me and thank Him for His grace in saving me because I definitely didn't deserve it. I'm looking forward to living a life with Christ as my friend and Saviour.

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found. I Was blind but now I see.