

**MICHELLE**  
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the landlord of the building called the police and the children services to apprehend us, and then they separated us. At the age of five, I was heart-broken.

Eventually my sister and I were re-united with one of our brothers. The oldest brother went back to help our mother, but ended up in a gang. The three of us moved in with our father and he took care of us, even until this point. We would see our mother every once in a while and hear about her. News of our mother came when I was about 11 years old when we learned that our mother was diagnosed with AIDS. To see your mother decaying in front of you...to see that beautiful skin infected and scarred up, to know that your very own mother is dying of a terrible disease and you cannot help her was horrific. My mother was cleaned of the drugs before the disease, but we later found out that she contracted it through her boyfriend who was a heroine addict. But even while our mother was going through the AIDS process she used to visit us and talk to us. She used to look at us with her beautiful smile and tell us of how proud she was of us. A few years later the beautiful, strong black woman named Michelle died.

When we lived with our father, he used to read the Bible to us and he taught us how to pray. In the midst of all of the turmoil in my life, I found refuge in the Word of God. My father used to read the Bible to us, until I learned to read it for myself, I learned about people who were used by God and I desired to be used by Him also. When I read about Jesus, I found myself wanting to be just like Him and wanting to do everything possible to please Him- I was in love with this God. Later, I learned three very important precepts of God that altered my whole life.

1. I was redeemed from the curse of the law.

Christ became a curse for me so that I would not have to be cursed by the decisions of my mother. Once I received Christ that generational curse had been broken!

2. I am made in the very likeness and image of God.

I learned that I was made to be just like God. Because of what I had been through in my life, I was labeled as a statistic- I was not going to do well in school, was going to end up with several children before 21 and possibly on drugs. However, God's redemptive power allowed me get a 4.0 GPA in my third year of college, remain pure and Holy before God- without any children and the only high that I get is from the Most High.

3. God has a plan for my life

I was overjoyed and honored when I found out that the God of the universe loved me and wanted to use me for His glory. Me? After all that I had been through? God wanted me to represent Him? At the age of 16, I was filled with the Spirit and a couple

of years later I learned the purpose of my salvation and being Spirit-filled- to be God's witness in the earth that He is Lord!!! God has called me to demonstrate His power to the nations!

Isaiah 62:2 says, "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness and all kings thy glory, and thou shall be called by a NEW NAME, which THE MOUTH OF THE LORD SHALL NAME."

To every parent or person strung out of drugs- God will call you by a new name; to every child suffering from the pain and shame God will give you a new name. God calls us by His very name- no one is too far from His salvation, redemption or love. The Bible says NOTHING can separate you from the love of God. If only my mother knew the meaning of her name, Michelle- "Who is like God"? When God saw my mother, He saw Himself, one who is like Him. Although my mother has died, her legacy still lives for I am her legacy- Tenesha Michelle Thomas. Tenesha- Michelle- one who is like God! I am left on earth to do what she could not do. I am here to prove that generational curses can be broken. I am able to fulfill the very promises of God and bare his very name to show forth His glory throughout the nations of the Earth!

God does not exalt one person above the other. Therefore, if he has done it for me, He is more than able to do it for you!

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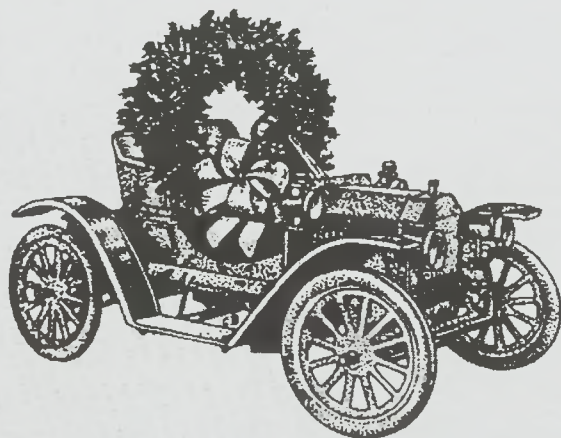


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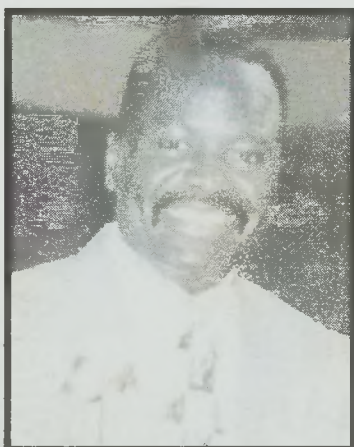
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