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Michigan PF

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" – Matthew 18:20

When roads diverge: choosing paths

Placing our plans in God's hands

By Charlie Wondergem

As the current state of our economy reaps havoc on so many of us, and as we fear what's to come, we must ask ourselves what God has in store for us. Our weak economy is one of many reminders of the eternal importance of the lives we lead and the decisions we make. As we begin to reinvent ourselves, we often leave the most important factor out of the equation: God's plan for us in his eternal plans that stretch far beyond any of our desires for ourselves. As high school seniors across the nation, including myself, make the

ever-so difficult question regarding the next four years of their education, so often it seems that we forget to even incorporate the eternal paths laid out before us. We rather choose prestige over Christian principle; choosing a school and pursuing a major not for its glorification to God, but rather for its immediate gratification for our own worldly desires. I hope that you will join us at our Spring Retreat, where will discuss how we can better tailor our plans to fit into what God already has in store for us.



Youth in Action

By Jordan Drummer

Reno Wright is a deacon at First Congregational Church of Detroit and is currently a minister-in-training. Though he has only been there 2 years, he has touched the lives of many. A Detroit native

growing up, Reno attended Cass Tech High School and has gone on to be an upstanding figure in the community. He is a member of Detroit Jaycees and Detroit Chamber of Commerce for Young Adults. He serves as the program di-

rector of Ross Innovative Employment Solution (I.E.S.), a program for low-income Detroit residents ages 14-21 that holds leadership development workshops, workforce experience training, CPR certification, and Microsoft certification. When asked where he sees himself in 10 years, he

said he hopes to be a pastor and open an urban outreach center. Some of his other future goals are creating spiritual curriculum, writing spiritual help books, and travel the world to help others live better and fulfilling lives. Reno is an example of the many everyday heroes in this world: living a very fulfilling life.

Meet the Michigan PF 2009-2010 leadership team

Get to know next year's PF officers!



Zakk Howe President

Zakk is currently a junior at Merrill High School, where he runs track (mid distance, 800's and 1600's), among being involved in other various school activities. In addition to serving as next year's Michigan PF President, Zakk was elected last summer to the position of Vice President for the National Association of Pilgrim Fellowship at the summer conference in Boston. After high school, Zakk hopes to attend Michigan Tech, possibly a different tech school that isn't as cold. He aspires to be a programmer, but he also enjoys politics and flying planes, and is considering the possibilities of a career in the Air Force or public relations. Zakk has been involved in PF since he was in junior high, and looks forward to his leadership role in the organization in the year to come!

Ben Zamora Central Representative

Ben is currently 16 years old and loves to be active in sports and in Christ. He is a junior at East Jackson High School, and plans to continue his education in college, whether it be Ferris State, Eastern Michigan, or another school of his choice. Ben sums up his faith by a saying once shared with him by a friend: "It's better to believe and there not be a God than to not to believe and there be one" Ben currently resides with his dad and step mom, brother and sister, and two dogs, Shasha and Allie. In his free time, Ben enjoys hunting (squirrels and deer) and wrestling, a sport he has been involved in for three years, and during the summer volunteers as a camp counselor at the Michigan Congregational Summer Camp. Ben has been to nine retreats, and looks forward to his continued leadership in PF.

Alex Raeon Vice President

Alex is currently a ninth grader at Novi High School, where he is on the Boys' Swim team. In his spare time, he enjoys playing the guitar, listening to music, playing video games and hanging out with my friends. Alex has been involved in Michigan PF since he was in sixth grade and has gone to the Michigan Congregational Summer Camp since fourth grade. Last summer, he attended the National Association of Pilgrim Fellowship's annual conference in Boston and plans on going to Wisconsin for this year's and Alaska for next year's. He always enjoys being involved in the statewide church activities and has applied to be an ACD this year at the Congregational summer camp. As the next MPF Vice President, Alex hopes to continue to make the retreats fun and a good place to learn about more about God.

Jacob Hague Southeastern Representative

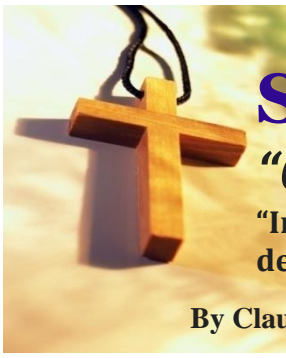
Jacob is currently a freshman at Walled Lake Western High School and is a member of Meadowbrook Congregational Church. Outside of school, he plays travel soccer for the Novi Jaguars and loves watching and playing sports. Jacob enjoys attending his church's youth group every Sunday night and going to Gleaners Food Bank with his church friends. He has been actively involved in PF activities, including the Michigan Congregational Summer Camp and has consistently attended middle school and high school retreats. He looks forward to his leadership role in the organization, and hopes to make Michigan PF a place where everyone will feel welcome and have a great time!

Meet the Spring Retreat Speaker!



Pastor Gordie Lindsay is an Ordained Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For over 25 years Pastor Gordie has been ministering to young people and their families. He has dedicated his life to reaching out with the love of Jesus to the neediest of our society, whether there struggle is homelessness, drug addiction, abuse, abandonment or lack of educational skills or tools. Pastor Gordie's passion is to disrupt their lives with the message of John 14:6...Jesus is The Way, The Truth and The Life.

Pastor Gordie is currently the Community Outreach Pastor for Rejoyce Ministries, in Pontiac, MI as well as one of the Chaplains for the Detroit Pistons. He has been married to his lovely wife Dawn for 24 years and they have four beautiful children together, Alexandria, 19; Sarah, 16; Gabe, 13; and Cosette, 9.



Spring Retreat 2009

“Our Paths, God’s Plan”

“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps”

By Claude Johnson

What do you plan to be when you grow up? What profession will you pursue? What have you set your heart on? These are a few of the questions traditionally asked as you approach a particular threshold in life. Whether you are graduating from middle school into high school or from high school into college, someone will ask one of the proceeding or similar questions. Think back to when you first heard one of those enquires. Well, were you two, five, or ten years of age. You readily answered with the intent (at least you thought at that time) to become a doctor, lawyer, fireman, nurse, or maybe an actor. Whatever your dreams are, God has a plan for you.

My best friend (Don) and I used to sit back and talk for hours about ‘what we were going to do’ when we grew up. Once I was going to be a super hero or cowboy. Another time - a doctor and another – a business man, in what field – I did not know at the time. Things, ideas, and aspirations changed as I grew up. Unfortunately, Don passed in our thirty-fourth year of age, while I was still serving in the military, which I entered at seventeen. Among my plans was completing twenty plus years in the service, but I was back home after eighteen. I immediately started college classes hoping to obtain a business degree and open a restaurant. As the semesters came and went, God had a different plan for me.

It was approximately in my third year (sixth or seventh semester) of school that I became aware of the fact that I would become a teacher instead of owning a business. The classes begin to change as well as my focus. “What am I doing?” I would ask myself. This wasn’t in my plans! I knew what I wanted to do!

But I’d soon realize that there was some planning done for me that I was not able to change. These plans were a lot bigger than me or my plans. It turned out to be part of God’s plan for me. I can truly say: “Once I let God take the lead, I have been happy ever since!” What are your plans? Have you asked God, “What are your plans for me?”

You see, God has a plan for all of us and He will help you realize your dreams if you allow Him to take the lead. As the theme verse states; ‘In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps’ (Proverbs 16:9). Ponder that for a minute! The Lord will determine your steps! Wow! Remember in the letter “Footprints,” where the Lord answers the question about there being only one set of footprints in the sand. Quoting, “My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. --- when you see only one set of foot prints it was then that I carried you.” As I close this article, I ask: ‘What are your paths or plans? Think on this, then contemplate on; ‘Just what is: GOD’S PLAN’ for me. Friends, I hope the best for your future. May God bless and keep you as you decide (with His help) on your path. See you at the retreat in Clarkston, March 27-29.

Oh wait, one final thought in support of the theme and verse, as written in the book of Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the thought that I think toward you, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Well think on that, my friends! Whatever “OUR PATHS,” we should pay attention to “GOD’S PLAN” for us.

Humbly Submitted,
Claude “BIG DOG” Johnson
MPF Youth Commission

Spring Retreat 2009

“Our Paths, God’s Plan”

Join us for the Michigan Pilgrim Fellowship Winter Retreat at the First Congregational Church of Clarkston March 27-29!

The retreat is for all senior high and middle school youth interested in coming together for a weekend of fellowship with other youth from all over the state.

There will be small groups, a speaker, movies, and many games and other fun activities!

Make some great friends and learn about the world around us, and how we can balance our own desires for life with the plans God has in store for us.

Visit the Michigan Pilgrim Fellowship website at www.michiganpf.org to print off your registration!

We hope to see you there!

**Sincerely,
The Michigan PF
Officers**