

# Missionaries to “Greater” Cleveland, Ohio

**Sponsored By:**  
**Rodgers Baptist Church**  
PO BOX 460639  
Garland, TX 75046  
972-675-4800  
[office@rodgersbaptist.net](mailto:office@rodgersbaptist.net)  
[www.rodgersbaptist.net](http://www.rodgersbaptist.net)  
Pastor Ron Thomas



**Joel & Madonna  
Allen**

**Address:**  
PO BOX 387  
Medina, OH 44258  
330-723-7181  
[jrallen@zoominternet.net](mailto:jrallen@zoominternet.net)

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Dear Friends,

We wish you greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Madonna and I are thankful for all that the Lord has brought us through and His sustaining grace. We are well (for the most part) and laboring for the Lord in an area of rampant blindness to spiritual truth. Only God can deliver from this kind of blindness (Eph. 4:18). We do see headway from time to time but it is slow and also in small increments. One such occasion took place a few weeks ago when Madonna went for a haircut. I ask your patience for this will take some explaining.

We have spoken about Madonna's hair stylist (actually we both go to her) in previous prayer letters, although it has been quite a while ago. She has a rather sad story concerning her mother. She was diagnosed with Schizophrenia which has pretty much robbed her of her personality and ability to function. The only reason that we know this is that Madonna made a reference to Jimmy Wilson (who comes to our Bible studies) and she mentioned that her mother had the same problem as well. No doubt this has been a real issue for the entire family. In fact many years ago, Madonna asked her hairstylist point blank, "You don't care anything about spiritual things do you," and her answer was no. But recently Madonna has begun to share some things about her Multiple Sclerosis and also how she came to be diagnosed with it. This goes all the way back to 1983 and it was a traumatic year for our family. The details are too much to share in a prayer letter but there was one incident that happened while Madonna was in the hospital in Dallas that she felt the liberty to share. It is an event that we rarely share but she felt impressed to share it. While she was all alone, scared and angry at the recent diagnosis, not knowing what was going to become of her or us, she was at her lowest point and she felt arms come around her and hold her. Startled, she opened her eyes, and at that point the hairdresser's eyes got big and she finished Madonna's sentence, "And there was no one there!" At that point she got emotional but tried to contain it. This marks the first time in over 15 years that Madonna was able to share something with her on a deeply personal level. It is extremely difficult here to get anyone to share anything on a deeply personal level. We have seen over the years that little by little people have begun to let down their guard and allow you to see even a minute part of their inner being. Our hope is that this that Madonna shared will plant a seed about the goodness of God that she can't get away from. Hopefully it will lead to more dialogue—only time will tell. My apologies for not sharing her name, I've never felt comfortable sharing names but God knows who she is. Over the years we have asked for your prayers for us and others on a regular basis. This woman needs your prayers. She doesn't have a testimony of salvation and she thinks that she is ok. She is a kind and sweet woman but sweetness doesn't get you into heaven—repentance and faith in Jesus Christ does!

In Christ,

Joel and Madonna Allen

JOEL ALLEN  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April - June 2018

Support

Regular Support .....	\$3,090.00
Total Support .....	\$3,090.00

Expenses

Housing .....	\$1,265.19
Utilities.....	599.65
Homeowners Association Dues (3 Months) .....	656.70
Salary .....	200.00
Christmas Offering .....	150.00
House Insurance.....	60.99
Internet .....	94.42
Ministry gas .....	14.38
Total Expenses .....	\$3,041.33