

## A WORD OF TESTIMONY

I am the second youngest of a family of five girls and one boy. I was fortunate to have been brought up in a strict home where Sunday was observed by parents and children alike. That meant Sunday School and Church with our parents. I attended anything to do with Church including Brownies, Guides and the Choir.

I left home when I got married. In those early years we had two children and brought them up in various locations throughout the province. Each time we moved we sought a Church in which to worship. During those years I would have been considered an upright, good living person. I heard the gospel preached faithfully many times and as a result I realized that all my good living and my Church involvement was blinding me to the fact that something was missing in my life. It was as I was ironing in the kitchen one day that I started asking myself questions like 'where am I going'? and 'what is life all about'?

I had never really thought of myself as a sinner but verses in the Bible began to speak to me, verses like Romans 3 v 23 which says 'For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God', and Romans 6 v 23 which says 'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord'. These and other verses helped me to see that in order to get to heaven I needed to be saved and all my Church attendance and Sunday School prizes did not prepare my soul for Eternity. Ephesians 2 vs 8&9 says 'For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast', spoke loudly to me.

How glad I am that the Holy Spirit was already working in my heart and I realized what I needed to do in order to be made right with God was to accept the fact that I was a sinner and confess my sin. Later that night, away back in 1973, in simple faith I accepted Christ as my Saviour, asked Him to take away my sin and take over my life. There were no flashing lights or visions that night but I experienced a peace in my heart which I never knew before.

Since then life hasn't been all ups, and I admit that I have let the Lord down many times, but He has never failed me. When we commit our lives to Christ the Devil will use every means to draw us onto the broad road, but thanks be to God we can defeat him if we keep close to God and rely on Him to help when temptation comes. I just thank my Lord for paying the price of my sin at Calvary, for saving me and for keeping me to this point in time.

The past five years have been fairly rough when in December 1999 after many scans and tests I had to have major spinal surgery, but I can honestly say that the Lord brought me through, together with the prayers of God's people and many friends. He is with me every step of the way and I can only offer Him praise and thanks for His goodness.

I look upon every new day as a gift from God's hand and while I know not what the future holds, I know who holds the future and I rest secure in Christ's finished work at Calvary.

*Aileen Rodgers*