

## A WORD OF TESTIMONY

I had the wonderful privilege of being born into a Christian family, the younger of two girls. I accepted Christ as my Saviour at the early age of four, and although I am thankful to have being saved so young in life, I did experience many doubts and worries as a child.

I was taken to Church when just a baby and as I grew slightly older but was still too young to understand anything that was being said from the pulpit, (we had no children's church) I quickly learned to 'switch off' as soon as I entered the Church doors, and soon became exceedingly skillful in finding ways and devices to help 'pass the time' until the end of the service. This was a seriously bad habit to form and one that I did not manage to break until my early teenage years. As a child my behaviour in Church was exemplary but I wasn't hearing one word that was said!

When I was just four, my sister and I attended a series of meetings for children in the Iron Hall, Belfast - my sister willingly and myself reluctantly! I found it hard enough attending Church and Sunday School every Sunday without having to go to during the week as well! It was after one of these meetings that my sister accepted Christ as her Saviour and the following night I too put my trust in the Lord. I can't remember much about my conversion but over the next few years I was torment by many doubts and fears. "What if I had not really understood what I was doing and had only copied my big sister?" - "what if I was not really saved?" I inclined to be a rather sensitive and quiet child, I never confided my fears to anyone - quite a burden for a seven year old, however I am so thankful, God was in control of my young life and despite my worries and fears, He kept me safely in the "Hollow of His Hand".

I am thankful that God reached down and saved me so early in life. The Church and fellowship that I found so tedious as a child became the main focus of my teenage years as along with many young friends, we matured and learned to serve and follow the Lord who had done so much for each of us.

Over the many years that have passed since, I thank God for the many blessings I have enjoyed, for His love, Help and Guidance and His Wonderful presence with me in every situation.

*Ruth Haslett.*