

A Word Of Testimony

Born into a family of eight where I was No 5, we didn't have any luxuries. My mother was a born again Christian, and from an early age we were sent to Sunday School twice on a Sunday, in the evening hearing about God's salvation. Mother was often heard singing hymns like "It is no secret what God can do," and "Each drop of blood bought me a million years," and I used to think that was a very long time. Those were very precious days, and in spite of the hardships, we learned principles and morals that stuck all through life. We were taught reverence and respect for God and His word. I remember well, attending a mission back in the fifties when Pastor Willie Mullan was the preacher. What a sense of the Lord's presence was felt, that it was the talk of the people long after the mission was over. From an early age I was taught the scriptures which are able to make one wise unto salvation. As teenage years approached, I felt that I was too old for Sunday school, and the devil was saying taste and see that the world is good, and to my shame, I choose his way. Even though I went to places of worldly entertainment, and indulged in the ways of the world, I sometimes felt as if someone was tapping me on the shoulder. By my late teens, spiritual things were somewhat blurred by the bright lights of the world, yet soul satisfaction and peace of mind was something I never knew. I tried the broken cisterns and all to no avail. But then it happened, I met a young lady who won over my heart! The two of us continued to pursue the places of worldly entertainment, until God in His mercy was to show us the better way. Jesus says in John 10 v 10 "I am come that ye might have life more abundantly." As the psalmist says "If it had not been the Lord," - and I dread to think where I could have been. However God was rich in mercy and stopped us on the road of life. Yes BOTH of us stopped to listen to an open-air meeting, not because we were seeking God but because He was seeking us. We were curious and not for one minute thought that either of us would be saved that evening. Little did we think that the Son of man had come to Ballymoney on 9th October, 1966 to seek and save two who were lost. Friends, that was the outcome of our stopping. We both found the seeking Saviour. He lifted us out of the pit, and set our feet on the rock Christ Jesus, and put a new song in our mouth. The psalmist says "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good," and like the old scotch man said. "It's better felt than telt." The Lord wants to save you too, if you will only let Him. Come now and let us reason together saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson they shall be as wool. Isaiah 1 v 18

Sam McAlister