



Testimony Time
Saved by Grace

**Good News of what God has done;
is doing and can do, in the lives of people!**

By Olive Borland

*Thanks to Hilary Lamberton and Irene McCausland
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Introduction

Saved by Grace



As I begin to write I do so *not* with a sense of pride but with a sense of humility as I recognize my indebtedness to Almighty God for all the many blessings I have received from His hand.

When I had my last book of poems published our minister in Kerrykeel, the Rev. Janice Browne asked if I had ever thought of putting a book of testimonials together and after bringing the idea before the Lord in prayer this is what I now have the pleasure of doing. I hope you will enjoy reading about the love, mercy and grace that God has showered not only on me but on people known to me. I am glad to say the great news is that He is still able and willing to do the same for all who put their faith and trust in Him.

Many of you now reading will already know that I put my trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour when I was 15 years of age. At that time while sitting in a gospel meeting I realized that my “good works” or “good living” would never get me to heaven. God’s Word states in Ephesians 2 v 8 *For it is by grace you have been saved through faith and this not from yourselves, it is a gift of God - not by works so that no-one can boast.* God showed me that my efforts to please Him would never be sufficient. Isaiah 64 v 6 says *All of us have become like one who is unclean, our righteous acts are like filthy rags.* We are told in Romans 3 v 22 & 23 *There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* that word all included me but thankfully we can read good news in Romans 6 v 23 *For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* At that meeting I realized I was a sinner in the sight of a holy God who could not look on sin. I knew I deserved God’s judgement, but as this verse clearly states God was offering salvation as a free gift if I put my trust in His Son Jesus Christ who willing died to pay the debt I owed. On that night I accepted that great offer and asked Jesus Christ to become my Saviour and I am glad now over 50 years later to be able to say that God has kept His word when He said, *“I will never leave you or forsake you.”* Joshua 1:5

At the time of my Granny Anderson’s death the Holy Spirit had begun to work in my heart. I was eight years of age and I remember saying that I wanted to know God in the way my Granny did. I could see that she didn’t just know about God she had a personal relationship with Him. On her deathbed I recall her saying, “I don’t want crying, I want singing because I am going home to be with the Lord.” From that time I tried to live as I thought God expected in the hope of getting to heaven.

Now in this meeting at the age of 15 I realized I was a sinner who needed to repent and accept the free gift of salvation that God offers to all who trust in His beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because God our Creator knew we were powerless to save ourselves He sent the Lord Jesus to take our sin upon Himself. Jesus the divine Creator of our universe became a human being and lived a sinless life so that all who trust in His finished work may know forgiveness and find peace with God. When I asked God to forgive me it was as if a weight was lifted off my shoulders. I believed that my sins were forgiven and I was given what God's Word promises; the assurance of eternal life and a home in heaven. But I have to admit I still have to seek God's mercy and forgiveness. I am not all that I should be or could be; at times I see areas where God still needs to work to make me more like Him, I know I should spend more time in prayer and studying His Word. The devil doesn't want us to avail of these privileges; he endeavours to put all sorts of temptations and blockages in our way. It is incredible to think that we mere mortals who have trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour have free access into the presence of Almighty God, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We don't have to make an appointment, we don't have to pay an entrance fee, we don't have to buy new clothes before we visit, we will never find the door locked, we will never be asked to call back later and we will never be told to go and speak to someone else. We are told in scripture that we are clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, the One who rose from the dead and is now sitting at the right hand of God interceding for us. We are clothed in His righteousness – not our own. We have been given garments white and clean because Jesus has opened up the way to heaven and home for all who repent and trust in Him.

Shortly after I put my trust in Jesus I was at a Gospel Meeting and while singing a hymn I realized that I not only needed to trust in Jesus as Saviour I also needed to allow Him to become Lord. I knew I needed to allow God to lead, guide and direct me if I wanted to know and experience His blessing in my life.

How amazing it is to know that there will come a day when we will leave this scene of time and we will celebrate with the Lord Jesus at the marriage feast of the Lamb and then dwell forever with Him in the place that He has already gone to prepare. The apostle John, the author of the last book in our Bible, the book of Revelation, couldn't find words great enough to describe the wonder and beauty of heaven. I hope I will meet you there.

The Lord has given me the privilege of serving Him in many ways that I never would have thought possible because my education was limited in comparison to to-days standards. God gave me the privilege of being the mother of 8 wonderful children, of becoming a Sunday-School teacher, the Church organist, the pianist in a Mission Hall, the leader of a ladies group in our church, of singing with my husband at gospel meetings and of writing poetry, etc. To God be all the glory!! I can't claim to have done all of these things well but I know I couldn't have done any of them without God's help. I now thank God for the privilege of being able to tell you that God also loves you and He sees the potential in your life. His desire is that you experience His leading day by day, so that He can then show His power and love to others through you.

I never can repay You Lord!

*I never can repay you Lord
For what you have done for me
You gave me life, you gave me strength,
And you gave me liberty.*

*You put a new song in my heart
You my God to glorify
You became my Saviour, Lord and King
You promise me a home on high.*

*You put my sin in your forgetfulness
To remember it no more
Is it any wonder I want to sing
and praise your name o'er and o'er?*

*I want to shout from the mountain tops
So that everyone may know
That you also want to do for them
What you did for me long ago.*

I don't know about you but I love hearing the testimonies of other people's relationship with God, every person's story is different and has so much to teach us.

Just as God created each of us as unique individuals, in like manner He deals with each of us individually in our spiritual relationship with Him. However we must come to the point where we realize we cannot save ourselves by trying to be good enough to please God, we must put our trust in the atoning sacrifice of the sinless blood of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God states in His Word that He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3 v 9. He has given us all a free will but it is His desire that we recognize our need and accept His free gift of forgiveness and mercy.

I hope you enjoy and are blessed by the testimonials in this booklet. It is wonderful to know that God seeks to save people of all ages, all classes and from all backgrounds. Thankfully salvation has nothing to do with the denomination we belong to, all God asks is that we repent of our sin and put out trust in the Lord Jesus who willingly gave His sinless life on the cross at Calvary to pay the debt of sin that we owed.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank all who agreed to write their testimonials and have them printed. I pray their stories will be a blessing to all who read them.

Rev Janice Browne



I gave my life to Christ on 21st July 1999, age 42. Sometimes when I look at that date, I wonder what I was doing before that time? Why did it take me so long? I don't really have an answer to those questions...

I have gone to church all my life. I was brought up in a Christian family, went to Sunday School twice on Sundays, morning and afternoon, became a communicant member of the church at about age 16, went to Bible Class, and continued going to church as an adult. During my adult years, if anyone had asked me about my faith, I think I would have said I was a believer rather than a Christian.

In May 1999 I was appointed head of a school in Belfast. It was the job I had always wanted and had worked towards my whole professional life. Interestingly, at about the same time, something else began to happen in my life. I began to be bothered by questions; questions about faith, about what it meant to be a Christian. The questions would not go away. One of my colleagues in school was a Christian, and I began asking her questions about her faith. She was very open and helpful; my questions to her went on for many weeks and she patiently answered them all.

One day in July 1999, she gave me a devotional book to read. It was UCB's 'Word for Today'. I took it home and opened it at the reading for that day. The date was 20th July and the readings for that day were John 3:16, Hosea 1:1-3 and Ephesians 3:17-19. The devotional ended with these words, '*God doesn't want you to stay the way you are for even another day. Come to Him now, He's waiting for you.*' Those words seemed to cut to my heart like a laser beam. I closed it immediately, but I couldn't get the words out of my head: *Come to Him now, He's waiting for you....*

I did nothing about it that day. That night I didn't sleep too well. There were voices talking in my head and the strongest one was saying, 'Don't do this. You are fine as are. Don't do this.'

The next morning I opened the devotional again and reread the words from the day before. They were as powerful as ever. It was then I noticed on the page opposite was a prayer to pray to give my life to Christ. I felt the moment had come...it was now or never....I simply said one word, 'Yes' and prayed the prayer. I sat quietly for a while thinking 'I wonder what happens now?' I couldn't say I felt any sense of peace, but I did know I would never be the same again.

It took me a while to share with others what had happened. I did begin my new post as head teacher that September, but two years later took a career-break to Belfast Bible College. I loved the College and learned so much from being there. It was at College that I felt the Lord calling me to Ordained Ministry. I had been a Christian such a short time,

I felt the Presbyterian Church would never accept me, but in 2004 I was accepted for training and I entered Union Theological College in September 2005.

When I look over God's work in my life over the past 14 years, it has been an astonishing journey. It has been very difficult at times, Union College at my age and with so little experience of church work was very challenging and at times daunting, but God is faithful and got me through. His grace and patience with me are at times overwhelming. I pray each day that I can serve Him faithfully, and well, and to Him be all the praise and glory.



Fannet Presbyterian Church, Kerrykeel, Co Donegal.

Eric Borland



1Peter 3 v 15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

Because my parents were Christians my siblings and I were taken to Kerrykeel Presbyterian Church and we were sent to Sunday- School after church in the old Drumfad School, a 2 mile walk from our home.

There was always plenty of work to be done after school and at the weekends because my father had poor health. I did my 'leaving cert.' exam at the age of 12 and I left primary school. I thought my education was now complete so I burnt my books and school bag. I was left school for a full year and was enjoying life when a member of the Garda Siochána arrived at our home and said I had to return to school because the law required pupils to remain at school until they were 14 years of age. I felt very much out of place when I returned and I only stayed a week and left again; after all I had my leaving certificate!

I remember my father bringing out the “big” bible and reading to our family.

Sadly he died after having a heart attack when I was only 18 years of age. I remember being in his bedroom the day before he died and hearing him whisper the words of a well known hymn;

*Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast
There, by His love o'er-shaded
Sweetly my soul shall rest.”*

After my father's death I had the responsibility of running the farm along with my mother. Because of my Christian upbringing I went to church every Sunday and I did everything that I thought was required of me. This included becoming a communicant when I was about 17 years of age. Looking back becoming a communicant didn't have much of an impression on me then, I just thought it was something I was required to do. Although I went to classes of instruction with our minister I didn't understand the significance of what I was doing or the importance and seriousness of the vows I was about to take. I didn't realize that I was a sinner who needed to repent and ask the Lord Jesus to save me before taking those vows and obeying Jesus' command to partake of the bread and wine, the symbols of His body and blood, in remembrance of the sacrifice that He had made for my sin.

After obtaining my drivers licence I bought a car and I started to go to dances in the local halls but I never went on Sundays. I was always looking for satisfaction and dancing and the cinema seemed to satisfy me at the time but the satisfaction didn't last.

I started going out with Olive around that time, I knew Olive from childhood as we were both members of the same church and school. She had a sincere faith in the Lord although I didn't recognize it at the time and she says she can't understand why she didn't question what my faith was based on because she had done so with other people. We went to the same places and did the same things and she says I would have been classified as a "good" boy. We got married on the 17th April 1968 and each night we read God's Word and prayed together.

A short time before our wedding the congregation of our Church had voted to elect new elders and just the night before our wedding I was told that I had been nominated to become one of those elders. As we were getting married the next day I said I would think about it and let them know when we returned from our honeymoon. I don't know if they misunderstood but when we returned everything was arranged for the ordination and I just went along with it. However on the night of the ordination as the members of Presbytery laid hands on me and ordained me to the ruling eldership of our church I knew deep down in my heart that I wasn't right for this office. I knew something was lacking.

During a time of vacancy in our church I was asked to run the Youth Fellowship and we held meetings for young people in the manse in Kerrykeel. Some came from as far away as Carrigart. On one occasion the Youth Fellowship were invited to take part in a service in the Mission Hall in Milford where Olive and I occasionally attended on Sunday evenings. On that night I was leading praise with the youth group and the words of one of the pieces we sang really troubled me; "I've got a home in glory land that outshines the sun," "I took Jesus as my Saviour; you take Him too;" "If you will not bear the cross you can't wear the crown." Those words challenged me because I now realized that I hadn't taken Jesus as my Saviour.

About 2 ½ years after our marriage I remember baby-sitting one Sunday night while Olive took my niece to the Mission Hall where the Beach Mission Team were taking the service. My niece stayed behind to talk to a team member about the salvation of her soul and Olive came home overjoyed because she believed my niece had put her trust in the Lord. When Olive came home and told me and my brother who was visiting what had happened I thought 'good for her' but went on talking about other things.

When we went to bed Olive realized there was something wrong because of the tension in the air. We had a strong disagreement that could have caused us to separate but for the Grace of God. Thankfully the Holy Spirit brought conviction to my soul and that night I prayed and asked God to forgive my sins and to come into my life. I felt a peace from God that I can't explain and I knew that I was saved.

Some time later I was reading in the Bible how at the time of his conversion, Paul asked God; "What do you want me to do for you?" I was challenged and that night I too prayed that prayer.

At that time there were a lot of vacancies in our churches in Donegal and the Rev. Houston asked me if I would consider doing a lay training course. I was reluctant to join

because of my lack of education but he told me to come along and do the course anyway. I did just that and I am amazed at how God can use and has used someone like me to bring the Good News of His saving grace to people in Churches and Halls across our land. To God be the praise and glory.

Another opportunity arose when I got a phone call about becoming a member of Gideons International. I knew nothing about this organisation so I sought the advice of the person who was then our minister, the Rev. Bill Moore. He advised me to join as they do great work placing Bibles in schools, hospitals, hotels etc.

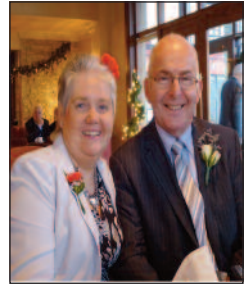
I now thank God for the wonderful privilege of being a member of Gideon's International since 1976.

I pray I will always be faithful to the Word of God and that God will be pleased to use me as He sees fit to bring glory and honour to His worthy name.

Ephesians 2 : 8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.



Samuel & Caryl Anderson



I, Samuel would like to share with you what Jesus has done for me. I thank God for the privilege of being brought up in a Christian home. I attended lots of meetings with my parents. While I was still at school the Faith Mission held Gospel Meetings in a portable hall in the field behind my home. At these meetings I felt God speaking to me and I asked the Lord Jesus into my life. I was 13 years of age. There didn't appear to be any major change in my life, life still had its up and downs but God was always near. Some time later at special meetings in Milford Mission Hall taken by a Mr & Mrs Richie from America, I felt God gave me the assurance of sins forgiven. The Mission Hall had a Youth Fellowship and I attended meetings there for some time. After my sister got married I felt a bit lonely and drifted from the young peoples meetings. In my heart I missed this fellowship with young Christians, I prayed that God would strengthen and guide me. I am so thankful He heard my prayer. I remember so clearly even after all these years receiving a phone call from one of the young people inviting me to a meeting, I jumped at the opportunity.

Then in 1972 Caryl Bell a cook from Cookstown, Co Tyrone appeared on the scene, she came to work a summer job in the Rockhill Caravan Park, Kerrykeel. On our first date we went to the prayer meeting in our church. That was a good foundation to our relationship because Caryl too had put her trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord at a Faith Mission meeting when she was 11 years of age. God brought the reality of His Word to us at this time, His Word that says, "In all thy way acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:6. The Lord has given Caryl many opportunities to serve Him over the years, she plays the organ in churches and the piano in Milford Mission Hall and she also sings in Gospel Meetings in many places.

The heading for our daily Bible reading on our wedding day 16th April 1975 was "A well founded Marriage."

We thank God for the privilege of being involved with Gideons International. We place the Word of God in schools and other public places. Our prayer continues to be that those who receive the scriptures will come to the point of accepting Jesus as their Saviour.

Ivan & Irene Mc Causland

“My Presence shall go with you”

The anaesthetist sat at the side of my bed explaining the following morning’s double by-pass surgery. As my wife and daughter sat there she outlined the risks – “1 in 10 may not survive, 1 in 100 may have a stroke, 1 in 10 may need blood.” These were the risks; all I had to do was sign the form.



As I walked my wife and daughter to the lift that evening that ‘1 in 100’ figure was echoing around my head. A chance that this might be the last conversation, the last embrace, the last goodbye! Yet as the lift door closed I felt a great sense of peace come over me. So what! If I was that ‘1 in 100’ and didn’t see them tomorrow, I would see them in Heaven. Either way I was on a winner- either tomorrow after the op. or in heaven.

Of course, I had known and believed this in theory, but when theory met the blunt reality of surgery I was amazed at the overwhelming sense of peace and swept over me. I made my way back to my hospital bed and lay down in peace for what might have been my final night. The verse we had often sung echoed true:

*“I will both lay me down in peace
and quiet sleep will take,
because you only me do dwell
in safety Lord doth make.” (Psalm 4:8)*

Fast forward nearly two and a half years to October 2012 and there I was again – anaesthetist at the side of my bed explaining the risks – this time for a prostate operation, I signed and we were good to go.

The surgery was successful. Until the next day – a stroke hit. My speech slurred, my mouth dropped, my arm partially lost its power, and sensation was totally gone from my left limbs. Irene came in to visit and could see the damage. That night the diagnosis was confirmed. Irene was called back into the hospital at 11.30pm because the medical staff was greatly concerned. After briefing her on the possible prognosis they sent her home to get whatever rest she could.

Irene’s story - October 2012

The following morning I drove to the University Hospital, Galway uncertain of what I would find, tears filling my eyes, struggling to see the road

At times, praying and pleading for Ivan’s recovery, praying for strength, not knowing what to expect, but expecting the worst. I could see the future – a future shaped by caring for Ivan in the aftermath of a stroke. I had last seen him at 1am. It was now 10am – what would I find?

I turned into the car-park, choosing car-park number 1; although the others had spaces, this one was closer. It meant waiting in a queue. I sat gazing blankly ahead, through the tears, my mind alternating between praying for strength and seeing the future. Then my

eyes began to focus on something. The car in front had writing above its number plate. I edged closer; wiping the tears from my eyes – *“My presence shall go with thee”* (Exodus 33:14)

Utter amazement – I stared. It seemed like the writing on the wall in the book of Daniel. It seemed as if God had written it there just for me. I cried even more. In that moment I felt that God was so personal, so close, so concerned for me. I was overwhelmed with such a sense of my Heavenly Father’s love. I was so excited I followed the driver in and got out to take a photograph to make sure I wasn’t dreaming. I spoke to the driver; asking if it was his car, and if he had put the verse there, explaining the significance.

What were the chances? Of all the Bible verses, of all the cars I could have been behind, God had planned that that car would be in front of me when I needed it most. A different choice of car-park, a change of traffic lights and it wouldn’t have been there. But no, God was saying “I’m here, I’m with you, I’m in control.” I knew that in theory, I believed it, but here was his personal assurance – as if he had come down and put his arms around me telling me it would be ok. It was utterly amazing. A weight lifted from my shoulders.

I felt the burden of responsibility go; I could face whatever I would find when I entered the ward. His Presence would go with us whatever the future held.

Being a Christian doesn’t mean immunity from life’s problems, but it does mean security in them. While Irene and I are profoundly thankful that when she walked in that morning she found that in God’s mercy I was already beginning to recover, we are even more thankful for the peace that God gave in the midst of it. Not just this time, but the previous time too.

We’ve lived our lives trusting in God, knowing and believing these truths. Now we know in a far deeper way that they are true, and that his care is deeply personal. We don’t know how either of us would have coped without God’s strength and the knowledge of his loving control over all things. Some may put a brave face on it and take their chances, but surely we want more than that when it comes to life and death issues?

We want to ask each of you who read our story what peace you would have if you found yourself in similar circumstances? Something may happen that is 1 in 100, or it may just be the 1 in 1 certainty of death at some point. Whatever it is, will you have peace?

The reason we ask is that God offers you the same relationship that brought Irene and I peace. He offers a peace with him that prepares us for death, and a peace from him that equips us for life, whatever its trials. Both types of peace are only through Jesus, but not on a casual acquaintance with Jesus – a real relationship with him. It is only through Jesus that we can come into God’s family and know his forgiveness and his fatherly care.

We’d love for you to know Jesus, so that you can be ready for whatever this life throws at you, or the next life. *“You will keep in perfect peace whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.”* (Isaiah 26:3)

Brian Gault - Look, No Hands!

Watching Brian you soon forget that he has a disability. He gestures vigorously and naturally with his legs, sometimes tapping the table with his foot to make a point. He has learnt to use his lower limbs to eat, drink, write, drive a car and just about anything that the rest of us do with our arms.



Years of misery

It was not always that way says Brian, “I was born without arms because my mother was given the Thalidomide drug which was hailed as a ‘wonder drug and completely safe’ which was prescribed as a sedative to help relieve morning sickness in pregnancy. When I was just 2 years old it was decided that I would be fitted with prosthetic arms. I was told I was going to Edinburgh to get some arms, I thought that meant that I would have arms like everyone else. What I got were many years of misery. My parents had to leave me in the hospital for ten weeks. I know now that everyone was trying to do the best for me. But I was just lonely and frightened.

In the hospital they put me in a plaster-cast, which was then ripped open with a kind of circular saw. I can still hear it. Then they fitted me with state-of-the-art artificial arms. They meant well, but it was very traumatic for me to try to learn to use them. I was already able to use my feet naturally, I hated those artificial arms.

In 1970 my family moved from Co. Antrim to live in the Isle of Man. However no school on the Island would accept me with my disability and so I was sent back to board at a special school in Belfast.

I still remember the feelings of abandonment and hopelessness, I would dream of swimming 65 miles home to the Isle of Man. When I did go home for the summer holidays I wanted to leave my metal arms behind at school. I didn’t feel incomplete or unnatural.

Glories thirteenth year

Firstly, my teachers finally admitted that the artificial arms were more of a problem than a solution. My arms made me feel disabled, and when I was told that I no longer had to use them I actually felt free, shouting ‘Yippee, No More Arms.’ I’ve never had them on since.

The second thing that happened in my thirteenth year was even better. Truly the 'bestest' event ever! I had a friend called Alan who had cerebral palsy. The school made sure that we all went to church. I wasn’t interested, and would avoid it whenever I could. Alan, on the other hand took his Christian faith very seriously.

Alan said something I’ve never forgotten – that God loved me just as I am, without arms, and with all my anger, frustration and rebellion. Alan patiently over many, many months opened his Bible to reveal that God loved me - Brian Gault; for what I was, not for what I was not.

The two Bible verses Alan shared that had an immense impact upon my life were

Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" and

John 14:6 - "Jesus answered, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." God mightily challenged and convicted me through these verses of my need to get my sins forgiven completely and that Jesus was the ONLY answer to all my anger, frustration and rebellion. I had to accept and believe that Jesus died on the cross for all my sins and rose triumphantly from the grave.

About ten o'clock beside my bed I remember as a teenager trusting and believing that Jesus shed his blood on the cross for my sins and he had defeated death and sin. Summed up nicely in the Bible verses found in **Ephesians 2:8&9 - "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no-one can boast."** I became a Christian. I wasn't perfect, but I did change.

Thalidomide in Brazil

In 1993 I saw a TV documentary which showed that 'Thalidomide children were still being born in Brazil where the drug was still used to treat leprosy. As I watched with tears streaming down my face. I experienced emotions that I didn't know I still had. Why did God allow it? Hadn't my fellow human beings learned anything? Why was this still happening in 1993, 32 years after the tragedies that had caused me and 10,000 others to be born with missing limbs?

My reaction, typing with my two big toes, I now had a reason to write a book. I decided that I would tell my story. So "Look, No Hands!" was first published in the year 2000 and has just had its tenth reprint – Praise God.

Another landmark

Another major landmark in my life was getting married to May. My mother had accepted me with unconditional love. She promised she would always be there for me, and she was. When Mum died in 1998 I was devastated. I wanted to hug someone, to love someone, someone who would love me, not feel sorry for me. And then May came into my life. God knew all about me, saying trust me Brian; I'll never let you down – **1 Peter 5:7 - "Cast all your anxiety on Jesus because He cares for you."**

I married my "wee treasure" - May during August 2000. We now live in the beautiful village of Broughshane, Co. Antrim. We have dedicated our lives to do what we can, with God's grace and strength, to help disabled children in Brazil and throughout the world. We travel many miles each year speaking in churches, schools, ladies groups, agricultural shows and a few prisons sharing about God's amazing love and faithfulness.

We started working in partnership with 'The Brazilian Thalidomide Society' (ABPST). We rejoice that 146 disabled children and teenagers have received wheelchairs, scooters, computers, homes, and much more.

Since then we have also worked in partnership with several charities, one being Wheels for the World – the overseas arm of Christian disability charity ‘Through the Roof’. We have been able to provide funds towards the cost of refurbishing, spare parts, transporting and fitting of 200+ wheelchairs that have been sent to transform the lives of disabled children, teenagers and adults in Kenya, Uganda and Ghana.

Recently, we have worked with the Kelly Family from Co. Antrim who are missionaries in Mozambique with One Mission Society, they have a real BIG heart for disabled children and adults and we rejoice and praise God for the opportunity to provide 35 wheelchairs suitable for rough ground.

The following Bible verse sums up nicely the truth of God's provision in so many practical ways over the years - **Ephesians 3:20 - "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us."**

I believe that God will use my disability to help others come to faith in the God who never makes mistakes or is surprised. He made me without arms for a purpose and I trust He will use me to take His love to those whom He has created to be 'different'.

For 52 plus years I've had no arms, and known no other way. My desire is that people see something of Jesus' character in an imperfect body. Yet, in the sight of my Lord, I know I'm whole. Still a sinner, saved by grace!



Mary Brown



Hi, my name is Mary Brown. I was brought up in a Christian home and taken to Sunday School and Faith Mission Meetings. I have 8 brothers and 1 sister. I heard bible stories and Christian songs at Sunday School and I knew at a young age that I needed to be saved. When I was 14 years of age my sister Violet and I were asked to sing at a gospel meeting where Joe Black was the speaker. I felt very uncomfortable as we sang that night, I realized my relationship with God was not what it should be; I knew I needed to trust in what Jesus had done for me on the cross. That night my life changed, I was a new person, I asked the Lord Jesus into my life and I was filled with joy.

At secondary school it was tough at times being a Christian but God brought me through. I joined the Baptist Church in 1999 and I was baptised in 2000.

When I finished secondary school I did training in child care and worked part time, I also worked in a crèche for five years. I got involved in my church and I attended Youth Fellowship. I now thank God for His leading; He has always been there for me.

To cut my story short, after a few years I was asked if I would consider going to America on a mission trip. I really felt God wanted me to go and serve Him there, so in 2005 I along with friends from our church spent 3 weeks in North Carolina. It was an amazing trip.

In the summer I also started to help out at CEF camps (Child Evangelism Fellowship) in Rosstown, Co Donegal and I went to Switzerland for 5 weeks to help with children's work. I had a wonderful time, what a joy it is to serve God in this way.

In 2012 I got the opportunity to serve God in Thailand for 3 months doing children's work. I had such a blessed time there. I love serving God, what a joy it is to be a follower of Christ.

God is so good; He has always been there for me even when times were hard He has never left me. He has allowed me to serve Him in so many ways in church, work, etc. Jesus is the only One who can forgive our sins, give us a purpose for this life here on earth and a place in heaven for all eternity. If you are reading my testimony and you are not yet a Christian I pray that you will come to Christ.

God tells us in His Word, *"Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or terrified because of them for the Lord your God goes with you. He will never leave you or forsake you."* **Deuteronomy 31: 6**

May God bless you!

Peter Dickson



Hi, my name is Peter Dickson and I want to take a bit of time to tell you about what God has done in my life. It's pretty simple, I was born and raised in a home where my parents loved God, I heard about God and knew about God and did all the churchy stuff. But God became real to me when I was seven. I realised he was much more than the 'big guy' in the stories, floating in the clouds with a long white beard. I realised He is real, really real; relevant to my life and that He wanted to know a boy like me. So I asked him to be Lord of my life, and to forgive me of the wrong things I had done.

So from that point I was a child of God, saved from punishment of sin, born again to a new life in Christ, but what does all that mean? It means shaping your **WHOLE** life around Jesus, because that's what a Christian is, someone whose whole life belongs to Christ. In other words a follower of Jesus, a disciple!

Fourteen years later I'm still learning, still growing in Christ, still messing up too. And fourteen years later God is still perfect, powerful, personal and wanting to know us. He wants me as his son, his friend, and his servant. He wants you too! He wants you as his child (man or woman). Why? *Because you are created in his image, he loved you before you were born and he knit you together in your Mother's womb (Psalm 139:13)*. And so God willingly sent His Son into the world to die on a cross so that when you believe on him you can know him and be righteous, restored and whole before him, and be certain, not hoping, but really certain that you will be in heaven with your Maker as soon as you die. Class or what?

So what does a Christian look like? There is a verse in **Ephesians 5:1**, probably my favourite book of the bible, which says "*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*" We are called to be Imitators of God, serving him in our daily lives and making disciples of all people, at work, church, college, home, with friends or at the mart! It's not always easy and I struggle to put His Will before mine at times. But Jesus promises that in this "*...surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" (**Matthew 28:20**)

Bert Anderson



I was born into a family of six. My parents sent us to Ramelton Presbyterian Sunday School. I became a member of that church.

We were sent to children's meetings at a mission nearby conducted by Miss Thompson and Miss Harbinson of the Faith Mission. On occasions we attended Milford Mission Hall. Later on, during my late teenage years, Rev. Caldwell Darragh conducted missions in our area for most of a year. I attended these meetings and heard clearly God's plan of salvation.

On the very last night of the mission I decided to take the step of faith and asked Jesus to come into my life and take away my sins.

Psalm 103 v12 says *"as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."*

My conversion became a reality when the peace of God flowed into my life. From then on I began to read my Bible and talk to God in prayer. I also started to attend Milford Mission Hall and the local Faith Mission Prayer Union. I found the Bible studies held in my Church very helpful as well.

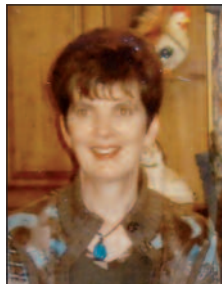
I have proved the Lord in so many ways down through the years. He has been with me all the way and has always undertaken for me. I thank Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that is to come.

*I know not what of good or ill
may be reserved for me
of weary way or golden days
before His face I see.*

Marie Anderson

I gave my life to the Lord Jesus at the age of 14 while attending a gospel mission held near Dungiven and conducted by a Miss Surgeoner.

The message of salvation was clearly presented each evening. I eventually heard the Lord's gentle whisper "come to me" when we were singing -



*Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee
O Lamb of God I come, I come.*

By God's amazing grace I came and knelt at the foot of the cross, repented of sin and asked the Lord Jesus into my life. My brother got saved that evening as well – all in answer to my late step-mother's prayers.

I am so thankful the Lord saved me early in life and spared me from being caught up in the things of the world.

Having my own personal quiet time with the Lord, attending the local Faith Mission Prayer Union, Bible Study and fellowship with God's people has enabled me to press on as a Christian.

As I look back over the years I can clearly see how the Lord has kept His loving hand on my life. He has been my guiding light through education, places of employment, marriage and coming to live in Donegal. He has also opened doors of opportunity for me to serve Him.

The Lord has been my refuge and strength and a very present help in times of trouble.

He is my loving Heavenly Father whom I can depend on at all times as I am confident that He knows, He loves and He cares.

Jean Graham



I was born in Co Donegal and from my earliest days I was taught I was a sinner, born in sin, and I would have to be born again before I could enter Heaven.

I went to live with two godly aunts and they took me along to Gospel meetings where I heard the Gospel spoken plainly. I was warned of my danger of dying without Christ and losing my soul for all eternity. One Sunday afternoon we sang the hymn “Where will you spend Eternity?” These words spoke loudly to my heart and no wonder, because we read in the book of **Hebrews 4 v 12** that “*The Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword piercing asunder soul and spirit.*”

These words spoke to my soul. I went to bed that night but could not sleep thinking over my soul’s destiny. I knew I must face this great question because it was God who was asking it. I learned John 3 when I was very young and I read it over but seemed to be in great spiritual darkness. I could find no peace.

Just when I was as miserable as could be God revealed to me from John 3:16 how He loved me and gave His only begotten Son to die for me. By simple faith I took God at His Word. I saw plainly that Christ was my substitute at Calvary, bore the punishment against my sin and by accepting Him as Saviour I was accepted, forgiven, and saved. I wondered why I had not realised such a simple truth earlier but knew that Satan had blinded me. The step I took that night was one which I never regretted. He has saved and kept me even in the depths of suffering.

I came to live with my parents and family in Co Antrim, Northern Ireland where I contacted Polio Meningitis and spent some time in an iron lung in Purdysburn Hospital in Belfast. Yet God makes no mistakes and even there I found God gave me His promises in many a quiet hour. I can say my suffering has brought a great blessing. God has never failed me in my darkest hour and now I can enter much more deeply and understand much more fully what others have to pass through. I would rather be in the darkness with Christ, than in the light without Him. My prayer is that this word of testimony will lead someone to see their need of Christ and His love for them. He is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

*Sinner, heed the warning cry,
Ere the Saviour passes by,
Strive to enter while there’s room,
For the Lord is coming soon;
And be sheltered by His blood,
Ready waiting for His return.*

One Sunday afternoon when I was sitting meditating on what Christ had suffered for a sinner like me these words came to me:

My Substitute

I was once a poor lost sinner,
Knew not of God's Love and Grace;
Wondrous was His Love and Mercy
When He came and took my place.

My poor heart was black and sinful
I was such a hopeless case
Till in love He came and sought me
I'm so glad He took my place.

When He climbed up Calvary's mountain
And the Cross He did embrace
All my sins were laid on Him
I'm so glad He took my place.

Hanging there 'midst earth and Heaven
Dying for the human race –
Oh! What wondrous Love and Mercy
I'm so glad He took my place.

As I stand and gaze upon Him
And His wondrous love embrace
Now I know Him as my Saviour
He's the One that took my place.

by Jean Graham

Donal Gallagher



I was born and brought up in the Roman Catholic tradition and served the church as an altar boy and choir member. When I was older I went to mass on weekdays as well as going on Sunday. I never heard that I needed to be saved or could have a personal relationship with God and our Saviour Jesus Christ by the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

I went to the U.S.A. in 1960. I worked during the week and sang and played music at the weekends with a band. I was called into the American Army in 1962 and that year Russia and the United States were in crises over long range missiles being placed into Cuba. We were on alert, ready to go into Cuba when thankfully Presidents Kennedy and Khrushchev settled their differences and it came to a peaceful solution. (Praise God)

I met my wife Joan who comes from Tipperary at an Irish Dance Hall in Queens, New York City. Two of our children were born in the U.S.A. and in 1969 we then decided to come back home to Ireland to live. My mother was bed-ridden with a stroke and needed full time care. My father was an elderly man.

We had a further six children born in Donegal. In 1980 our youngest child Elaine took ill with viral pneumonia and died a short time later in hospital. She was 4 ½ years old. This was a very difficult and traumatic time for Joan and me. I know I was devastated and angry that God would allow this to happen. (God always gets the blame during trials!) Joan began searching for God and at a Full Gospel Businessmen Fellowship meeting in a local hotel she gave her heart to the Lord. Joan was always on to me to come to the monthly meeting of the Full Gospel. I had plenty of excuses, working on the road all kinds of late hours. (salesman), choir practice (I was now the conductor or choir master) and playing music at weekends.

Finally one night I did give in and did go to the meeting to please her. There were about 100 people there and the speaker challenged the audience. If there was anyone down there – that if they were to die tonight had they the assurance of going to heaven “Put up your hand if you haven’t that assurance.” I knew that I hadn’t that assurance but I was too big a coward to put up my hand. My next door neighbour and another man I knew put up their hands so I decided to put up my hand also. The three of us were called out to the front and I was very embarrassed, angry and humiliated. I told Joan I was going to no more of those meetings and she cried herself to sleep that night. The Lord woke her up in the middle of the night with the message “In my time, in my time.” She prayed hard for me for 6 years to be saved saying, “Even if you have to put him on his back.”

Some time later I had a very bad accident. I was trapped under a van and had severe back and neck injuries which resulted in me having to give up work and go on disability benefit.

A year later I went to a house meeting in Castleberg and knew I had to give my life over to the Lord, which I did. I went into the Mater Hospital in Dublin for tests and started vomiting blood. I was diagnosed with a duodenal ulcer. I was put on a tagamet drip and a pain killing tablet I was on was changed because of the ulcer. However I reacted to the new tablet and went into a coma. After the 3rd day the consultant gave me another twenty four hours to live. A Christian man came in and prayed for my healing and the next day I awoke. The consultant, doctors and nurses were amazed at my recovery. To God be the Glory.

When I got home I joined the worship team at the Full Gospel Men's Fellowship and received many gospel songs from the Lord. My eldest daughter and her Pastor husband Jay are missionaries for Oceania for Christ in Fiji and have started a church meeting there.

My son Martin is married in Norway and is a Youth Pastor in his church there. Another son Jimmy and daughter Bernie are saved and going on with the Lord. We pray that the rest of our family will also join them. We have 15 grandchildren. The Lord is still using me to sing in many meetings and has given me lovely gospel words to Irish tunes. Praise the Lord.



Hilary McDowell

How great is our God

Our God is greater than anyone's wildest dreams. When I was born with seven disabilities I was given three weeks to live. Thankfully my parents were both Christians, they believed that I would live and would one day walk and speak despite all medical predictions.



Eight years they prayed and kept believing and they were my strength. At the age of eight I realised that God was calling me to commit my life to Him. He had always been my friend but I knew he wanted to be my master and Lord. The decision had to be mine and I knew the free gift of "life more abundant" was being offered but would never be mine unless it was accepted. In my own bed one night I surrendered body, mind, and soul and God's Spirit took up residence in my life.

It was the best decision I ever took. Not that all my problems were immediately solved but a few weeks later God preformed the miracle and I walked. Some years later I made that amazing decision fully public by going forward at a Billy Graham Crusade. What I'd done in private now became my witness. Since then God has enabled me to become a Deaconess in the Presbyterian Church and a poet with a psychology degree, a ministry in Christian drama, counselling and broadcasting. I am also the author of five books. The promise in the Bible that "with God all things are possible," is not empty words to me but a real, personal experience every day of my life.

Often when I'm faced with a seemingly insurmountable physical difficulty I say, "I can't do this Lord," and I know he is saying, "I'm glad you know you can't do it yourself, Hilary, there's hope for you yet." Then he says, "let's do this together."

Now that makes all things possible in his strength. I have travelled the world alone, speaking for him. He has taken me to Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, America and three times driving myself across Europe, sleeping in the car. To name only some of the mission trips he has asked me to undertake.

At home I continue to preach and teach all over Ireland and the U.K working in churches and schools and I also use Christian drama for the prevention of suicide. My work for the past thirty-eight years has focused on evangelism, prayer healing and reconciliation. Now I work in a voluntary capacity which includes helping in a drop-in centre for immigrants in my home town of Belfast.

Wherever I am and whatever God puts to my hand my greatest joy is to see individuals come to a saving knowledge of Christ. Without this relationship with God life is never what it could be for any of us either in this realm or the next and we will never be able to defeat sin no matter how hard we try in our own strength. The victory can only be claimed and joy experienced through Jesus. Belief in him and the entering into that personal relationship with him brings true forgiveness and fulfilment, If my life has taught me anything it has shown me that all things truly are possible with God.

Martha Peoples



Jesus, Lord and Master

Jesus, Lord and Master I come to you today
I know I haven't taken time enough to pray
I've tried to find my answers formed theories, dreamed my dreams
But now I know my hunger please feed me risen King.

Chorus:

*If I walk beside the river, if I drive into the sea
If I climb the highest mountain you Lord will be with me
If I dig down to the deepest deep and reach into the sky
Jesus Lord you walk with me and keep me with your eye.*

Lord, how can I leave you? You made me as I am
You formed my life, gave me breath, my skin show your design
In the darkest moments you find me with your light
And all the tears, the hurt and fears are finally put to flight.

Chorus:

*If I walk beside the river, if I drive into the sea
If I climb the highest mountain you Lord will be with me
If I dig down to the deepest deep and reach into the sky
Jesus Lord you walk with me and keep me with your eye.*



Sadly Martha went to be with the Lord before this book went to print but I still want to include this poem in her memory. My husband Eric and I spent a very enjoyable evening talking, praying and singing with Martha a few months before her death. Martha knew I wrote poetry and she gave me this poem that she had written. Martha told us how she gave her life to the Lord as a young girl and it was great to hear her at 87 years of age give thanks to God for His presence with her through the years.

Eugene Peters



‘God if you are real, then show me your reality.’ This honest question (prayer) to God changed my life forever. Before that wonderful change I was a broken man, physically and mentally chasing for satisfaction and joy in material things like money, wild parties, alcohol and drugs. I was without hope and completely empty. For several years I tried to change my lifestyle but it got worse instead of better. At the end I didn’t see any point of living anymore.

God saw me and was gracious to me. One day I was reading a couple of bible verses about Jesus - that he came and died in my place for my sin, that he rose from the dead for me, that if I actively believed in him I would have forgiveness and be rescued from the punishment I deserved for my sins and have eternal life. This was not the first time I heard these verses but this time it was different, God himself was drawing me to himself. I fell on my bed and prayed ‘God if you are real then show me your reality, come into my life and change me. You can see that my life is a mess, please forgive my sin.’ For the next three days I saw that something was going on in my life, I saw a change in my mind-set about life and I had a great desire to get to know God better. I was reading the bible a lot but I still was not sure if it really was God working in me. After three days I met an old friend whom I had not seen for a long time. He had become a Christian just a couple of years before that. My friend told me that the whole week he was thinking of me and praying that God would save me. He shared with me this bible verse from Philippians 1:6 ‘And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.’ It was so clear to me, I knew it was God who started the good work in me and it was God who started to change my attitude to my wild lifestyle and help me to overcome my addictions. From that day on I knew that God had saved me from the eternal punishment I deserved for my sin and that one day, after I die (or when Jesus returns), I will be with Him for all eternity in heaven in that perfect place where sin never again will destroy human lives.

After this amazing experience of God’s reality and forgiveness I was full of life, joy and excited to learn and talk about God. That was more than 7 years ago. I still experience God every day in my life - how he is giving me wisdom in different situations and decisions, how he is encouraging me, how he is forgiving me when I sin again, how he is giving me joy, how he is giving me strength to live a life for his glory, how he is using me to help other people, how he is answering my prayers and how he is showing me his reality every day.

I wish that you too would experience the reality of God in your life as your Saviour and guide. Jesus says in **Matthew 7:7-8** ‘*Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds and to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*’

If you have any question please feel free to contact me: 0863508958

Janet Slater



Being brought up on a farm outside of Letterkenny I was never bored as a child! My parents, Nathaniel and Joan Rogers were devoted Christians who made sure that I (and my 2 brothers) heard from a young age the stories of the Bible and the truth of the gospel. Every Sunday we went along to church near Kilmacrenan and to a children's meeting in Milford Mission Hall and a Sunday evening service somewhere too. Christianity was central in our home.

I loved cooking and went to catering college. I was excited about what was coming next, where my 'career' would take me! As my time in college was nearing an end God clearly called me to go to Bible College in Edinburgh and this was just the start of an exciting adventure that has brought me to where I am today. I spent 2 years studying in Edinburgh, learning from the Bible and memorising parts of it, sharing my faith with needy people and people who thought they were good enough and people who thought they could get to heaven by their own efforts. While I was at college I met a lovely young man called Johnathan who became my husband a few years later.

After Bible College I worked on a Mission Team, travelling the length and breadth of England and Scotland working alongside churches and sharing in their outreach. In 2003 Johnathan and I got married and set up home in Dunbar, Scotland. Much of our work there was pioneer work into areas that had no Christian witness. While living and working in Dunbar both of our boys were born. We moved house to Penicuik and continued to work for the Faith Mission in the central belt of Scotland.

After 5 years of marriage we were asked to move across the border to England to the beautiful city of York, where our work involved a lot of travelling and administration as well as ministry in the area. As a family we faced one of the most difficult times in our lives during our time in York when our first baby girl died. She is buried there but we know she has gone to Heaven. I will always miss her while here on earth but can't wait until we are reunited in Heaven one day. Our 2nd little girl was also born in York and we were delighted that she was a very healthy, happy, active baby. God blessed us more than we can describe during our time in York both through the joys and the sorrows. We spent 3½ years in York before moving to Co. Cork in 2012. Here in Bandon we run a Camp Centre, as well as doing evangelism in West Cork.

I often wondered why God allowed me to spend time training as a chef but then called me to be a missionary. I have to say that my culinary skills have been put to much use within the Faith Mission as there are always camps and conferences, conventions and dinners to be catered for and I enjoy being able to do it. I also do dessert evenings as an outreach and so I love sharing the gifts God has given me with others.

Jesus has promised to be with me wherever I go and I am confident of this and have proven His faithfulness in my life so far!

Paul Darragh



As I relate my testimony I can only include a few of the events that I hope will encourage all who are seeking God or those who are praying that others will come into a living relationship with Him. I hope my story reveals “*What is impossible with man is possible with God.*” **Luke 18:27**

It is only when you know how lost you were that you can appreciate the freedom, forgiveness and power of God’s love. I believe I have been rescued from the gates of hell and I want to tell people that God offers forgiveness and pardon to all who trust in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour.

I was born in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis: Scotland. My father, a Donegal man was working there as a Faith Mission Pilgrim when he met and married my mother. As I sat under his ministry as a child I was more interested in the buns and cakes than the preaching. We moved to Nr. Ireland in 1979 when dad became the minister of St Johnston and Castlefin Congregational Churches, in Co. Donegal.

The evangelist, Sammy Workman held a mission when I was 6 years old and I remember asking him to pray with me after one of the meetings. As I look back now I think I knew in my head it was the right thing to do but I failed to follow Jesus with my heart. The things of God were forgotten about in the years that followed. This makes me aware as I speak to my children that I must instruct them to do as the scriptures say in Mark 12:30 “Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

By now my dad with men from the Church where he ministered had a church built in Raphoe. He was now preaching three times on a Sunday and for a young boy like me one sermon was enough to sit through. I was losing interest in the things of God. My life was about me, I was self centred, every decision I made revolved around me. On Sunday afternoons I cleared off on my bike and left the family to go to the evening meetings without me.

When I was 14 my father became a full time evangelist and we moved back to Scotland where for me trouble was never far away. Some of my friends were always in trouble with the police. I now started trying drugs. Cannabis was the first. Thankfully I didn’t like the effect it had on me or it may have dominated my life as it did many others. But drink became all we seemed to enjoy in life: we thought we were having a good time. I didn’t know then that God alone could give me the peace and enjoyment I sought.

Our family moved back to Ireland when I was 16 and by now life was all about drink, parties, motorbikes and cars. I was always showing off, always looking for attention

One night on my Yamaha 125, I set out from Newbuildings to race two young men from Derry on their 125s. Turning around at Waterside I remember thinking, “I will take

it easy out the road.” As I travelled on that road a car pulled across in front of me. I went straight into the side of that car but I don’t remember much about it. I regained consciousness a few days later in hospital. I was in a woman’s ward, on a high dosage of morphine and confused as to what happened. When I crashed the front of my helmet was smashed, my top row of teeth were pushed back and one was missing, I had a broken arm, a broken pelvis, a broken shoulder and a wound on my knee. I could hardly walk for a while. Everybody reminded me that I was lucky to be alive. I was glad of that but I didn’t realize how close I was to being dead.

Three “wise men” spoke to me at different times in my life and I was to hear from the first one now. My dad was a preacher but he never preached at me. He loved me and tried to advise me as best he could but I was uncontrollable. I thank God that even though my father might not have preached at me he did what was better than anything, he prayed for me. This “wise man” now told me that if I had died I would have been lost forever because I wasn’t ready to meet God. He told me I would be in hell not heaven. He told me this truth in love.

I would describe something I did at 18 or 19 as one of the low points in my life. Some nights my friends and I spent a lot of time in an alley way beside Magheramason Presbyterian Church. We went into the church just for something to do or to shelter from the rain. One night when a few of us were drinking a couple of us went into the church; I took the stereo out of the church and sold it for money for drink. Stealing is wrong and God would use this in the future to speak to me. My life was full of sin. When God is not in control we are capable of doing anything.

Karen and I met when we were out one night. I often tease her and tell her she hit the jackpot that night and should count herself lucky. Seriously though I wonder what she saw in me, she could have done a lot better. Karen was beautiful. (I’d better say she still is)

Karen was 16, I was 19. We spent the next few years searching for happiness but doing all the wrong things to achieve it. I loved my cars. My first car was a MK2 Escort. Being who I was, selfish, self-centred, in love with myself I got it sprayed orange to attract attention. I had two Toyota Corolla Twin Cams. I was always showing off, diffing etc. Years of drink and drugs had left me absolutely empty. It was all about the “Big Night,” “Big Tunes,” Big DJ’s,” “Big Crowd.” Looking back all I can see is a “Big Head,” “Big Hangover,” “Big Waste of Money” and a “Big” part of my life lived in a very ungodly way. There was something BIG missing in my life but I didn’t know what it was.

Karen and I were together through those rough years. I thank God she is still with me today. Drinking binges lasted for days and once I started drinking, going home was out of the question. I have to apologise to Karen for how I treated her through those years. I was always looking for fulfilment, I was empty.

I had a good relationship with my grandparents in Scotland. My Granda was on a boat that was torpedoed by the Germans when a lot of his friends were killed. When he

returned from the war he too did a lot of drinking but God did amazing things in those days in the highlands and Granny and Granda got saved at the Lewis Revival. Thousands of people became aware of the sin in their lives at that time and put their trust in God for salvation. My Granda became a preacher and many still speak highly of him today. The last night I spent with my Granda he said to me, “make sure you give your life to God before you die.”

He was the second “wise man” who spoke to me.

I started a new job and decided to get a house of my own. At that time the mortgage advisor said something I will never forget. Ken asked me, “Paul have you got life insurance?” “No,” I said and he asked, “Paul, are you a Christian?” “No I said. He said “Paul do you know that is the only life insurance that you really need!”

Ken was the third “wise man” who spoke to me.

We never know how God will use the words we say to speak to the people we meet.

I began to think, if I had my own house I would have it all. So I bought a house in Magheramason, but now I was starting to ask questions about life. Karen came to stay with me at weekends and soon we discovered we were going to have a baby. That was quite a shock for me and both our families. I can’t ever remember even holding a baby never mind having one of my own. At that point I started to think seriously about life. Why were we here? What are we here for? Where do we go when we die?

I was brought up hearing that people had to be “born again” but I couldn’t grasp this myself. I always clung to the hope like so many do that I hadn’t done much wrong. I hoped that being brought up in the church and believing there was a God would be enough to get me to heaven.

I began to see there was something different about some of the people I saw around the church. I remember a friend saying to me, “I would like to be like your da, your da is always happy.” My dad had something others could see, an inner peace and contentment. The only peace many of us had was when we were drinking, but going out drinking was becoming boring. People telling the same stories over and over!

Rhiannon was born on the 27th May 2003. This was going to change my life forever. I was amazed by the miracle of birth and life. I was sensing God and I started to feel love in my life. I knew I loved Karen, but that was a self centred love. I now realised my mother and father loved me the way I loved Rhiannon. God was moving but I didn’t know Him yet. I knew something was missing, I had no peace.

I hadn’t been going to church for 15 years now I started to read the Bible and I realised that God loved me too and this affected me. I realised I was a sinner and according to the Bible I would have to pay. **Romans 6:23** “*for the wages of sin is death*” I had broken all the commandments. I knew Jesus said in **John 3:3** “*unless a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” I was coming under conviction of sin. I had smoked for 15 years and one night I told my friends, “That’s me finished with the fag’s boys.” Over the next few months I had also virtually stopped drinking.

I wrote a letter of apology to the Church in Magheramason and made amends with them. I now believed what I read about God and I was trying to live a good life. I had some understanding of Christianity but had not come to the point of repentance. I was struggling with sin but God was real to me now and Karen and friends could see the change in my life but I still wasn't in the right place with God and I knew it.

Karen got the surprise of her life on Christmas morning when I produced an engagement ring and asked her to marry me. I knew I had to do the right thing before God and Karen; although Karen wasn't a Christian. We did have something special, that's why we are still together after all the years. I think Karen is mad about me too - well that's what I tell myself.

One friend suggested we go for a few drinks to celebrate, but the few drinks lasted for a few days. I knew what I was doing was wrong; I didn't want to do this anymore. As I lay in my bed one night after that I wanted to hear from God, the reality of hell and separation from God, my family and this little baby I loved so much scared me. I knew sin needed to be dealt with. I became aware of the price that was paid for my sin and knew I would be lost forever. There would be no exceptions. Feeling guilty, I could audibly hear God speaking to me. It seemed so real to me but Karen heard nothing and I now realized God had always been speaking to me but I was never at the place where I could hear Him until now.

Karen and Rhiannon stayed with me at the weekends and the next day she went back to her mother's house. That day I read my first book ever called "Painting the Town Red" by Sammy Graham. Through this book God spoke to me about giving my life completely to Him. I could feel God right there with me. A couple of times during the day I got down on my knees and spoke to God. I had a real sense of the Holy Spirit with me.

Many times I had heard about Jesus dying on the cross for my sins and I had accepted that fact in those last months but that night I got a clear picture of Jesus Christ dying on the cross for my sins.

I now knew with repentance there had to be a complete lifestyle change. I knew that I had to give God 100%. I was sorry for the sin in all the areas of my life and asked for forgiveness. It didn't matter now what was ahead or what anyone was going to say. I had to follow Him no matter what the cost.

The next morning the world looked so colourful. The world hadn't changed but I had changed. I now had the peace of God in my life.

Now that I knew God, my purpose in life was to serve Him and tell as many people as I could about Him. It was hard for Karen now as our whole lifestyle had to change. This led to a bit of conflict but we got through it with much prayer from me and understanding from Karen. Karen could see that the positive changes outweighed the negatives.

I went to Magheramason Church on Sunday mornings and Lismacarro Mission Hall on Sunday nights. Very few people from our estate went to church. One day a friend shouted at me, “Hi Darragh, a leopard can’t change his spots.” I said, “That’s right but God can change them.”

I wondered why Karen and others couldn’t understand what had happened in my life. I couldn’t save anybody I could only tell them and pray for them. Most people I spoke to weren’t interested. I preached at Karen but I knew I made things worse so I then began to pray for her more.

We got married and had two more children, Reuben and Lila. I always believed Karen would get saved and I trusted God for that.

About five years after I became a Christian a CEF worker, Jaci Taylor became a great friend of ours and through Jaci’s witness Karen realised she needed to trust in Christ for herself. Now our relationship is stronger than ever because we are following God together and Karen has become a great help to me.

Since 2012 I have been assisting Pastor Mervyn Carter in Raphoe Congregational Church and Karen and I are seeking God’s guidance for our future.

I am ashamed of how I lived for years. God is using me now though to reach people from my past, people who lived similar lifestyles. I am now able to share my faith with them and tell about God’s forgiveness to all who ask. I was a slave to sin John 8:34 “everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.” I was there, now I am free. John 8:32 “and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”



Michael Concannon

“How Jesus changed my life”

My name is Michael Concannon, I was born in the Bogside, Derry and was brought up in the Creggan Estate, two very well known places in the city.

I was brought up a Roman Catholic. I am 58 years old so I have grown up in what was a very troubled time in our country.

I got married and had three children, all girls. When my eldest daughter was 12 years old she began to go to discos where her friends passed drugs around. I felt that this was the beginning of my problems, “**The dreaded teenage years**”.

Lisa was not passing drugs around; but she was in the company of the people who were, so as far as I was concerned it was only a matter of time before she got involved. Then she began to pal around with a girl who was a “**Born Again Christian**” but what was that? What did “born again” mean? To the catholic mind it sounded like Mormon, Jehovah Witness, or some sort of cult.

Lisa stopped going to discos and began to go to meetings, bible studies etc. so I began to worry about what they were teaching her. I wondered what do I do about this? If I stopped her going to the meetings then the only alternative was to go back to the discos where the drugs were, so I thought the meetings-bible studies etc would be the lesser of the two evils!!! I could also see that the parents of Lisa’s friend were upright people so I continued to let her go to the meetings.

At that time I began to read Lisa’s bible, a Gideon bible which she had received at school. As I began to read the book of Revelation I was really intrigued by what I was reading. It spoke about 21 judgements that God was going to pour out on the earth because of man’s rejection of what Jesus had done on the behalf of sinful man. I read it over and over again.

Each week I would give Lisa a lift in the car to her meetings, each week she would ask me to come into the meeting, Every time I would say to her that I didn’t know what kind of God she thought she had in there and that I didn’t need him.

So, over a period of 2 ½ years I had read the book of Revelation about 70 odd times and during that time I had 3 dreams. **It was the same dream each time.** The dream was that I was living in the times I was reading about. I could hear the wails and the cries of thousands and thousands of people and each time the dream finished the same way. I could see a bright light coming and I would wake up in terror saying, “**Jesus is coming to judge me.**” I thought this was only happening because I was reading the book of Revelation and that it was playing on my subconscious, so I ignored the dreams.

One night I decided to read something else in the bible. You must understand that catholic people are totally ignorant of anything scriptural so I opened the bible at random



at Romans chapter 10 and I began to ponder verses 9&10. **That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** I didn't know at the time what Jesus had said in **John 3:3. Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."** I read in Romans 10 where the apostle Paul tells us how to be born again but I didn't understand this and I began to question if I really believed this? I then said, "yes I really do believe that Jesus died and rose again and had paid the price for my sin." So I said a prayer and I asked Jesus to forgive me for all my sins and I said, **"I give you My Heart, My Mind, My Body, My Soul, My Spirit, all I have I give,"** but I didn't really know what it meant or the significance of it.

Lisa had often tried to talk to me about the LORD but I wouldn't listen to her. I said this prayer on a Thursday night so on the following Sunday I gave Lisa a lift to the meeting as usual and as usual she asked me to come into the meeting but this time I said that I would go with her, but my motives were purely to stop her asking me to go. If I went I could say, "I have been there, seen it and done it."

As I walked up the street two men got out of a car, they were also going to the meeting. While walking I asked Jesus for a sign and for help and guidance because I wasn't sure if I was doing the right thing. I decided if I didn't have a sign I would not go back.

When I went into the meeting I sat beside one of these men. When the meeting began people were praying aloud which was something I had never encountered before, so I tried to leave by the back door but it was locked so I had to sit down again. Then one of these men stood up and began to speak about doing the **"Lord's work in Romania."** He spoke for about 6 or 7 minutes then he stopped. He then said **the "HOLY SPIRIT" had put it in his mind that there was someone in the room who has prayed and asked JESUS for a sign and for help and guidance because he doesn't know what he is doing or if what he is doing is right or not?** I was stunned!! How did he know that.? Only **GOD** could have heard my prayer so how did this man know.? I thought to myself that it was a lucky guess so I ignored it, but 7 or 8 minutes later he repeated it again. This time I thought **"God would not want to know me,"** this was for people who went to mass or these meetings. I had not been to mass in 18 years, so God would not want to know me. So I ignored it again. A few minutes later he repeated it a 3rd time. **I thought that it must be because he knew that I was a stranger and he was fishing with a long line to catch me, but I was not going to be caught. I was a stranger, he saw a strange face that's why he was saying it.** But then he said he didn't know anyone here as he was on his way back to **"Canada from Romania."** He had only stopped off for twelve hours to visit his friend and that he was sorry because he had to leave the meeting, but he had to go. I thought if he had only stopped off for twelve hours then he would not know me as a strange face, so why did he say what he said? I followed him out and I asked if I could speak to him? I asked him was this something he said

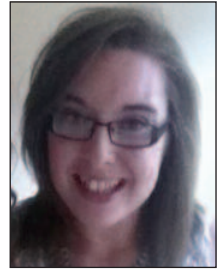
everywhere he went but he said “no,” so I asked him why did he keep repeating it and he said that the **“HOLY SPIRIT”** kept telling him to repeat it. He asked me if it had any significance to me, so I told him that it had and that I had said a prayer outside which he repeated to the letter. He said that he felt it was a sign from God, and that he only believed in two things. He believed in God, and in the Word of God, the Bible. He said he did not need to defend it, God would defend it and that it was something for me to believe in, but that he really needed to go.

I am a plumber by trade. The next day I was working in a house, by myself. I had to fix a leak under the floor in a very tight corner and the job wasn't going to plan so I cursed at it. I did not say it loudly, but supernaturally it thundered through the house which I thought was strange, so I said it again and it happened a second time. I began to wonder what was happening to my life, it seemed to be turning “Upside down.” This had happened now twice and that man spoke three times the previous night. What has brought this all about? I then thought back to the previous Thursday night. I had prayed and handed my life over to Jesus, **“I must have opened a door somewhere”** I had called out to God, He must have heard and this must have been God beginning to speak back? I did not understand what it meant to be **“Born again,”** I just knew that when I called **“He answered.”** That was the beginning of the most remarkable time of my life.

Before all this I would have very **“Atheistic”** in my thinking. Had you asked me about the existence of God I'd have said there is no such thing as God!! If God existed did He know about me and if he knew about me did He care about me? Little did I know how much God cared for me! He was whipped and nailed to a cross. He suffered and died to take my sin upon Himself so that He could give me eternal life. He died so that I would not have to die and bear the consequences for my own sin. He took the judgement and punishment for my sin. **“The innocent for the guilty”**

Barabbas the prisoner was guilty yet he was released and Jesus was crucified in Barabbas place. This is a picture of what Jesus did for you and me. Jesus who was innocent was put to death for our sin and we who are guilty are set free if we trust in Him!!! We need to have our eyes opened to who Jesus is and what He has done. He did this for the whole world and He did this for you if you would only come and surrender your heart and life to Him as I did. AMEN.

Claire Baxter



I am 20 and I have just qualified as a primary school teacher. I became a Christian when I was around 9 years old. I grew up always going to camp, Holiday Bible Clubs, Girls Brigade etc. so I knew of Jesus' love shown to us on the cross. I knew that the only way I could be forgiven for my sins was to pray and ask God to forgive me. I continued with my life but nothing really changed... I loved learning about God but I kept my faith to myself and only really talked about it at Christian events. When I was about 14 I realised that God is not just for Sundays but He should be completely involved in everyday of your life.

That summer I realised what a relationship with God was really about - loving him personally, devoting everything to him and living my life telling people about the grace of God. Since I made that commitment, to let God into my whole life, everything changed for the better! I've learnt so much more about God, I've seen Him answer prayer in ways I could never have expected and I've seen how God has a plan for my life. No matter what happens in life, a personal relationship with God is far greater than anything this world can offer. God has really taught me how to live for Him through His Word, the Bible, by spending time with other Christians and by joining a Bible believing church etc. and I'm still learning each day!

God has always been there in such a real way for when times get tough or when I fail. He forgives, He comforts, He loves but He also gives you a choice as to whether you want to get to know Him. I took that first step - asking God into my life, I would never change my decision about living my life for God. It brings the greatest joy each and every day and I can be assured that I will spend eternity with God :).

A couple of verses that has really encouraged me recently are **Psalm 73:25-26**. I hope they also encourage you.

- 25 "Whom have I in heaven but you?
I desire you more than anything on earth.
- 26 My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak,
but God remains the strength of my heart;
he is mine forever

June O'Neil

I was raised in the Catholic faith in the centre of Dublin. My Dad and Mam were shopkeepers and hard working people. I have five brothers and two sisters. I am the second youngest of the family. Our family home had a lot of addiction as four of my brothers were drug users and this played a major role in the dynamics of our home.



From a very early age I was aware of God and he was very real to me. I befriended one of the nuns in my secondary school and confided in her that I wanted to be a nun. She advised me to speak to my parents but I didn't feel that was an option as I had never known them to speak about God other than to organise us for mass and the usual ceremonies like communions and confirmations etc. As a result I never spoke about it again but that awareness of God was with me all of my life. Over the years I had friends who were Protestant of varying denominations but I never felt the need to discuss our differences. We just accepted each other and some of these are my friends to this day.

Eight years ago I started a home based business. My up-line managers were Christian pastors and again I never felt the need to question them about this. However, one evening, while at a managers meeting, we were invited to a service at their church. I was intrigued by the couple who were the guest speakers – an ex-nun and ex-priest who were now married to each other. Boy was I curious as to how that happened? So I went along to the service, not knowing what to expect. To be honest, I didn't really understand some of the teaching on the night, it was quite deep but I did go for prayer. They prayed with me and asked me to repeat a prayer with them. I know now it was the salvation prayer. I knew instantly something had changed. All the way home in the car I said over and over again, "Oh my God I've come home! Oh my God I've come home". I didn't know why I felt this, but I did. The next day I was very agitated and restless in myself and the pastor from the night before rang me to see how I was. She explained about being born again and that there was a battle on for my soul. She also told me I had a choice and could pursue this or not. I knew I had to learn more and after a couple of weeks I discovered a Christian church in my town.

From the beginning my three youngest children came to church with me and we became actively involved in the different ministries. Within about two years, I had been given several prophecies about working with women and was advised to go to Bible College to study Theology; I did and in 2013 graduated with a Certificate in Applied Theology. God started to bring women into my life; women who either were in distress or worked with women in distress and I began spending more time in their company. At the time the leader of our Women's ministry had gone to be with the Lord and I felt I should enquire about taking on her role. I have now been the Leader since August 2013. I am developing a strong women's group and lots of exciting things are in the pipeline for our women. My son Alan has become a strong man of God and works as a youth

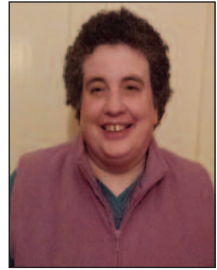
leader within our church. More recently he has gone to South Africa for a year to work as a volunteer and has been significantly touched by God. My daughter Sarah is on the worship team as a singer and has been earmarked as a future Worship Leader. She wishes to become a midwife and go on mission trips using this calling to help women in poor countries. My youngest daughter who is now 9 has recently joined the worship team in kids church and loves every minute of it. This is all she has ever known and it amazes me how she speaks about Jesus. He's her buddy.

I love God and thank him every day for rescuing me. He never leaves us or forsakes us. He is there whenever we call Him and challenges us in the areas of our lives that are unhealthy for us. I've learned over the years that even when things are really bad, God is in it with me and always has the solution. My job is to trust Him and put Him first. He knows the beginning from the end.



Anna Borland

I had the wonderful privilege of having been brought up under the sound of the Gospel. On Sundays during my childhood, a neighbour would come and take my brothers and myself to Ray Presbyterian Sunday School at 10 o'clock, after which we would go to either 1st or 2nd Ray Presbyterian Church (at that time they held the service week about). There we would join our parents for the service. After dinner, someone would come and take us to the Gospel Hall Sunday School in Letterkenny at 3 o'clock and sometime we went Gospel meetings at night.



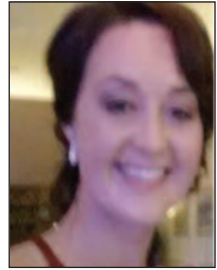
When I was 10 and a half years old, my mother's only sister died! She was the first corpse I ever saw and I remember looking at her in the coffin, I knew she was in heaven, as she had given her life to Christ when she was in her teens. I also knew that I would have to do the same if ever I would meet her again.

About three years after her death there were a series of Gospel meetings near Convoy. A lady from Letterkenny came and took us to these meetings for six weeks. They were conducted by Messrs Sam Patterson and Gilbert Stewart and they were to finish at Easter.

On Good Friday (10th April), we went to the meeting as usual. I don't remember anything that was said. When we got home my mother read the parable of the Prodigal Son. I realised that, like the son, I was far from God, and as the son made a definite decision to return to his father, I would have to decide for Christ if ever I was to get to heaven and be willing to take the sinner's place.

That was a long time ago now, and I am not perfect, but Jesus is. I thank God that one day He will present me before His Glorious Presence without fault and with great joy. It is great to know that you have the Saviour with you through all the trials and tribulations of life.

Lynda Watt



From a young age I went to church and Sunday school so I met quite a few people who loved Jesus, told me about Him and why they had put their trust in Him. Even my primary school teachers were Christians and it was evident that they knew Christ and encouraged us to know Him for ourselves. So I was in a Christian bubble. I appreciate that I heard it so early in life. At around the age of six, having understood why Jesus died and rose again, I asked for forgiveness and for Him to be Lord of my life. Secondary school kick-started the challenge of figuring out if my faith was real, not my parents' faith, and whether I was going to share it. Christian Union (CU) in school was a great chance to discuss the relevance of God in life and to learn how to read and question the Bible.

Quite new to the working world, the memories of university are still very fresh. I loved my time at university. The student body was about 80% international so I have met people of many different backgrounds and religions. I really enjoyed the multi-denominational CU where the singing, praying and discussions were quite varied. It reminded me that God is known all over the world. Looking back I see I have had many opportunities to examine beliefs and issues with Christians and non-Christians. Talking with my Muslim friends certainly challenged me to question and share the reality of God, salvation, who Jesus is, and the hope of Heaven.

I would encourage you to take opportunities in school, college or work to ask questions about God and what we need to understand/believe/do. Apathy and indifference are terrible killers, stopping people really seeking out answers about our creator God.

“The tragedy of modern man is not that he knows less and less about the meaning of his own life but that it bothers him less and less” – Vaclav Havel

People coming and going in life is horrible to say the least. Friendships failing, people dying, it's a scary reminder of how temporary our lives are. The transience of people draws me to God to ask 'Why?' yet I am reminded of his constancy. God never changes, will never abandon us, nor withdraw his love, forgiveness or promises. His judgement of all, yet his promise of Heaven for believers means there is nothing more important for anyone than knowing Jesus.

I mess up loads but I am a sinner saved by God's grace and He continually prods my conscience. From 1 John 1:9 I say sorry and ask God to help me change. Philippians 1:9 is a constant prayer to love and trust God more in spite of circumstances, mood or uncertainty.

I finish with some advice people have given me:

The way in is the way on. You become a Christian through God's grace; continue by relying on His grace and truth.

Brigid Stapleton



I was a typical teenager. At 18 years of age I enjoyed the things most teens celebrated such as music and dancing. However, maybe I was not so typical as I belonged to a youth group where spiritual discussions took place in between doing voluntary work.

One night the discussion veered the way of the Eucharist and Communion. When asked my opinion on the matter I said that I did not believe we consume real flesh and blood and that I didn't believe the priest was presenting us with the body and blood of Christ. "We are not cannibals," I declared.

When the Parish Priest replied that Catholicism revolved entirely around transubstantiation I was shocked. When he warned that if I was to express my view to the Bishop I would be ex-communicated I felt as if I had just had my cheeks redden by a slap.

That incident started things rolling and ignited a curiosity in me. I between working, drinking and dancing I spent a lot of time reading. I had a thirst to find out what I could about the Eucharist and wanted to find an explanation that would help me believe in it. Not one explanation made sense to me.

At the same time I was having a recurring nightmare, much to my parents frustration. It went as follows: I would walk over a hill from the back of my house toward the church, a large wave would destroy the church and the surrounding houses would end up submerged. I would climb onto a rock in a bid to stay safe, but the rock would sink fast. At that point I would wake up terrified before proceeding to tell my parents what I had just dreamt. I would explain that I was going to hell because I couldn't believe in transubstantiation.

This continued for two years then a friend invited me to a prayer meeting. She had no idea what I was going through or that the night before I had taken to my knees to ask God to lead me to the truth. So, we went to the prayer meeting but when I heard someone pray the words 'you took me from the jaws of hell and placed my feet on solid ground' I should have taken heed, but my first reaction was 'that man must be a murderer'!

When we left I said to my friend 'I know that's the truth, but it's not for me.' She insisted I go along on Sunday because I owed her a favour and my attendance would repay the favour debt. I agreed but on one condition we could go dancing afterwards.

On Sunday a preacher from Cork who I never heard of or saw before took the meeting. I sat at the front in fear that if I sat near the back I would make a quick exit and still owe the favour. This preacher spoke about how we were sinners which at the time I thought was a term to describe murders and the like. He spoke of how our righteousness was like filthy rags in the eyes of God, rags that were like a bad smell in his nostrils.

I was sliding down my chair as he went on, but then as he told the story of how Jesus came to die on the cross for me - and how He gave me a free gift at a huge cost to Himself; this information caught my attention. The fact that God gave his Son for me touched me.

As soon as the meeting was over a lovely man named Terry Fay lead in prayer and all my questions were answered. Two years of questions were answered in one hour. That night on 7th November 1976, I became a child of God. I asked Jesus to forgive me of my pride and sin and to come and take His place in my heart.

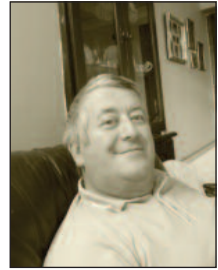
Peace filled my soul as the hymn writer puts it; 'It was on a Sunday somebody touched me, it must have been the hand of God.'

Later that night I dreamt the same dream. I was drowning; dragged down by the church stone I was chained to until a man in white garments took my hand and guided me to a rock. This time the rock didn't sink. I was later told that Jesus is my rock and my fortress, my Saviour and in Him I can trust.

There are many more things that Jesus has done for me but it would constitute a book itself to tell the entire story.



Robert McKnight



My two brothers and I were born into a farming family in Raphoe, Co Donegal where we were sent to the Presbyterian Church. Until I was 30 years of age going to church was just the done thing. I was taken to meetings in other places by my Uncle Jim and although I felt the conviction of God on several occasions I didn't respond. On one occasion Uncle Jim and I were talking about death and I remember saying I was ready to die and he said, "I wonder are you?"

My brother Norman died unexpectedly around that time and my blood pressure soared about a week after his death, I felt really ill from Tuesday until Friday when I remember being in the shed feeding cattle and heard (HEARING) a voice say, "Go to the midnight service in the Congregational Church. On that Friday night I obeyed what I believed was the voice of God and at that meeting when the preacher spoke I was convicted of sin but I still did not yield my will to the will of the Lord.

On the next three Sunday nights I again went to the services in the Congregational Church where I heard the Word of God faithfully preached but I stubbornly neglected responding to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

About a month later when Pastor James Logan was preaching he asked; "Is there anyone here tonight who doesn't know the Lord" and I immediately thought that he was speaking to me. After the service without me saying anything to him the Rev. Logan asked me to bring my family to the children's meetings. I thanked him for his invitation and he said that he would talk to me later but I said that I would like to talk to him tonight."

On that night in January 1993 the Rev. Logan led me to the Lord and I am thankful to say I knew the peace of God in my soul. I now believe that if I had not responded to the will of God then His Spirit may not have prompted again.

When we trust the Lord for salvation it doesn't mean life is always going to be easy. I am sad to say our family were plunged into grief in 2010 when one of our sons took his own life. This is something that is hard to come to terms with, hard to understand and leaves many questions unanswered but I am thankful to say my wife and I were aware of the strength of the Lord's enabling power through this very difficult time and to this very day. To God be the praise and the glory.

Rev. Ker Graham



I had the privilege of being born into a Christian home, where I was taught the Bible from my early days. I was blest to attend a Church where the Word of God was carefully and prayerfully proclaimed. Thanks to Godly Sunday School teachers and youth leaders, I grew up knowing all about the way of salvation and of God's love for me.

Although my father was a clergyman and I attended Church every Sunday, I knew that such activity did not make me a Christian. I also knew that the only way to heaven was through a living, personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ; and such could only be found through my recognition that I was a sinner in need of Christ's forgiveness and salvation.

Every January the Young Peoples' Convention was held in the Maiden City. This was a great opportunity for the young people of all denominations to come together. One evening as a thirteen year old I attended the meeting. God spoke to me and called me to repent of my sins and to trust in His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and Lord. Quietly in the pew where I sat, I surrendered my life to the Lord Jesus, and I experienced God's love and peace surround me. Over the years I have fallen many times and let the Lord down, yet God has been gracious to me and has lifted me up and forgiven me.

In my later teenage years I believed that God was calling me into some kind of Gospel work. As I wrestled with this, it became clear that God was calling but also saying 'not yet'. Career wise, the door to Banking opened for me. I continued to serve the Lord through my local Church and was greatly involved in youth work. Then in my late twenties, God challenged me again, and as I prayed and sought His guidance, the path to Christian ministry opened for me. After six years study at University and two years assistantship, I was ordained to ministry within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. I continue to rejoice in the Lord daily knowing the promise of His Word, that He shall never leave me nor forsake me. It is His strength that is made perfect in my weakness. How wonderful it is to be able to share a word of testimony for Christ in these days of pluralism. God's Word assures us that there is salvation in no one else. **Acts 4:12** "*For there is no other Name under Heaven that is given among men by which we must be saved.*" Salvation is by faith alone, by grace alone, in Christ alone. Call on the Lord today in true repentance because Jesus reminds us that (**Matthew 7:21**) "*not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven*".

James & Glenda McKean



20th September 2001 was a very important day for us...it was our wedding day! The start of our new lives together. We had met only 15 months earlier but it was part of the plan that we believe God has for our lives. Both of us have a similar story as to how we came to faith in the Lord Jesus. We both grew up in Christian homes that taught us about the Lord Jesus and we were brought to church, good news clubs, camps, Sunday school etc. While neither of us were 'bad' people as such, we still realised that we fell short of Gods standard and so needed to come to Him for forgiveness for ourselves. It was in our very early teens that we made our respective commitments and put trust in Christ as our Saviour. As the years went by God became more and more real to both of us as we learned to walk with Him and lean on Him through the circumstances of life. Since getting married we have grown together as a couple not just because we share a home and family but because we share a love for the Lord Jesus and a desire to serve and follow Him. It gives us great inner peace and joy knowing that the Saviour we love is the one who promised to 'never leave us nor forsake us'.

Other books by this author:

Books of Christian Poetry:

Whispers of Love 1

Whispers of Love 2

Whispers of Love 3

Whispers of Love 4



Give God the Glory

Personal testimony of how God revealed himself through times of illness:



The Jigsaw Puzzle


Memories of childhood spent in Kerrykeel, Co Donegal:



“Kerrykeel” A Place Worth Remembering

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Co. Donegal,
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Just as God created each of us as unique individuals, in like manner He deals with each of us individually in our spiritual relationship with Him.

I hope you enjoy and are blessed by the testimonials in this booklet. It is wonderful to know that God seeks to save people of all ages, all classes and from all backgrounds. Thankfully salvation has nothing to do with the denomination we belong to, all God asks is that we repent of our sin and put out trust in the Lord Jesus who willingly gave His sinless life on the cross at Calvary to pay the debt of sin that we owed.

Front cover picture - Glenveagh Castle, Co. Donegal

Back cover picture - Sheep grazing Glendowan Mountains, Co. Donegal