

My name is Ronnie McMullan and as we would say in this part of the country, I am Portrush "bred and born". I was born into a family where my father was a Fisherman as preceding generations before him had been. It was a home where there were not many of life's luxuries although we got enough to suffice. Despite this I was a child of privilege, as both my parents were saved and loved The Lord and they brought the family up in "the fear and admonition of The Lord." From my earliest days I was brought to Church and Sunday school where I learned again the Way of Salvation that I had been taught at my mother's knee. Like Timothy I could say "that from a child I had known the Scriptures". Sad to say despite knowing the Way of Salvation, I grew up not trusting The Lord Jesus and as time went on, I had less and less interest in the "things of God." Indeed as I grew up there was an inherent desire in my heart to be rid of the restrictions of a Christian Home. I was taken to many Gospel Missions where the Word of the Gospel was clearly presented (that I was a sinner and that if I ever wanted to be in Heaven, I would need to repent and trust in The Saviour's Atoning Death for me at Calvary). I well remember attending a Gospel Mission in Dunservick Baptist Church when I was 14 years of age and God very definitely spoke to me and I was brought under conviction of sin, but once again I refused God's offer of Salvation. When school days were completed I got employment in the Gas Department in Coleraine and life progressed but without God. I have to say looking back and without going into detail, The Lord was merciful to me and preserved me from death and destruction on many occasions both on land and at sea.

I met Joy and we got married in March 1968 and God blessed us with six of a family. Despite not having much interest in the Gospel and trying the "pleasures of the world," there was a void (an emptiness) in my life which nothing could fill. In the year 1978 I attended occasionally the Gospel Meetings at Dunservick Baptist Church where Pastor Garrett was in his last year as Pastor. As I attended these meetings I knew within my heart that I needed God's Salvation but I had a feeling that I had rejected Christ so many times that He was no longer speaking by His Spirit. During this time I used to read God's Word at random before I went to bed each night and God brought many warnings from His Word. Eventually on 22<sup>n</sup><sup>d</sup> August, 1978 I went out to the manse and after having a discussion with God's Servant, I repented of my sins and trusted The Lord Jesus as my Own and Personal Saviour. Since that time I knew a peace in my heart that nothing else could bring. I was subsequently Baptised in accordance with Scripture and joined the Fellowship of Portrush Baptist. God has continued to lead and guide in my life and has lead me to serve Him in the Fellowship. Life has not always been a mountaintop experience and like most people there have been the valley experiences of life.

I can testify today that through all the changing scenes of life, the Lord Jesus has been "a friend that sticketh closer than a Brother" who will never leave you nor forsake you. If anyone who reads this and has never closed in with God's offer of "So Great Salvation" then I would urge you to close in with God's Salvation while you are in the day-of-opportunity "Behold today is the accepted time behold today is the Day of Salvation"). Looking back I have regrets, particularly wasting many precious years but God gave me a promise after I got saved that "He would restore the years that the locusts had eaten." Being the faithful God that He is, He has kept His promise and my endeavour is to continue to walk with Him until "travelling days are done."

"Through many dangers toils and snares I have already come,  
T'is Grace that brought me safe thus far, and Grace will lead me home."