

## A WORD OF TESTIMONY

It is now 30 two years since I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour.

Although I attended chapel regularly I never really knew any deep love for God or had I any great concern about spiritual things, just drifted along happy in the notion that I was doing my best and too young and too busy to care about the next world.

Tommy and I were married nearly four years and we were expecting our second child, just three weeks before he was born my father-in-law took ill and died. In a few days our world had changed with the loss of a much loved father. Time went on and over a period of the next nine months, when I look back I can see that the Lord was at work softening my heart towards Him and giving me an unusual desire for His Word which I knew or understood little of.

Tommy worked with some Christian men, they knew that he had lost his father and they took the opportunity to witness to him. This went on regularly and he would tell me about what was said and how apparently you could be sure of getting to heaven if you were saved. This was definitely news to me as I never heard of this before, that Jesus suffered on the cross for my sin and that by trusting in Him I could have my sins forgiven.

By now it was summer time and we continued to receive gospel tapes almost every week and enjoyed listening to them. I remember little of what the messages were about but I had as I said before a certain delight in hearing the word explained. I was given a copy of 'Right With God', a straightforward book to help those searching for a personal faith in God by John Blanchard. I may not have known I was searching but I was.

Not long after, towards the end of September the author of the book held a mission in Portstewart and our friend asked us along, he said that he would not be there himself but undaunted we arranged a babysitter and set out

for the Town Hall with a well used Scofield reference Bible, a gift from a neighbour whose husband was a street preacher. I was never at a Gospel Meeting before and did not expect to know anyone there, but when we stepped into the porch there was a girl whom I worked with and whom I had high regard for. She and her husband took us to our seat and remained with us. Can you see the Lord leading all the way!!

The message was from Acts 17:22-31 Paul observed the religious men of Athens, they were so religious they even had an altar to the unknown God, whom they worshipped in ignorance this is the God that Paul declared to them. The God that made the world and all things in it did not dwell in temples made with hands neither is worshipped with men's hands, all the passage was explained very simply and verse 30 says, God was willing to overlook this worship in ignorance but commands all men everywhere to repent. This to me seemed like a good idea for another time, plenty of time yet but still a good idea. But then the word NOW was mentioned, best not put it off, so with a very very small amount of faith, like a grain of mustard seed I repented and thank God Tommy repented that same night also. We often wonder how we would have understood each other if only I was saved.

It was a good experience to be saved, I was at the meeting the next night but just in case this was my imagination playing tricks, I said to the Lord on my way home, I would really know I was His if I threw away the cigarettes and had no desire to smoke again. I never had a wish to smoke again.

The Lord has blessed us in our marriage and in our family down the years and is more precious today than ever.

All the glory is to the Lord for seeking me out and keeping me to this day.

*Frances Gallagher*