

## A Word Of Testimony

I was born in Belfast into a Christian home. I was taken to church and Sunday School and encouraged to be involved in other church activities. At the age of 16 I became a member of the church and started to teach Sunday School. Shortly after this my Grandmother took ill and I went to live with her. Many evenings we spent in front of her open fire singing hymns from the Redemption hymn book. Friends of my Grandmother would visit and tell me of my need to be saved, I didn't like this as I believed that I was a Christian and as far as I was concerned that was enough. The Bible says in Isaiah 64:6 all our righteousness's are as filthy rags and in Romans 3:23 that all have sinned.

This couple never gave up on me and asked me to a meeting in the Emanuel Hall in Roslyn Street. The speakers that evening were Bob and Alma Mc Allister. As they spoke about their work in the Congo and the need for the Congolese to come to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit convicted me of my need. After the meeting I spoke to Alma and put my trust in the Saviour. That was the 4th February 1967.

In April 1973 I got married and in May left these shores to start a new life in Australia. Sadly that new life was to see me backslide from my Lord, however back in Northern Ireland this couple I mentioned earlier were remembering me in prayer. They weren't to know that my husband and I were parted and I was seeking happiness in night clubs while friends looked after my children.

One such night as I was on the dance floor verses from Psalm 34 kept coming into my head. As I returned to my home in the early hours it felt cold and empty just like my life.

As I began to think about my life I realized that although I had left the Lord He was waiting for the prodical to return.

Just after dawn I sought the Lord (Psalm 34:4) asking Him to forgive my waywardness and help me get my life back on track. At that point the sun rose and I felt a warmth flooding my soul. The Lord had helped me through many difficult situations and in January 1988 I returned to Northern Ireland with three small children. Since then I have had the privilege to teach children through C. E. F. and S. S.

My three children are now adults. One is involved in children's/youth work in her church, one is at Bible College preparing for mission work. The third is backslidden but I believe God will do a work in His time to bring restoration. I am now a Grandmother to two boys with another due in October. My role in life is changing but I still have a desire to see children and young people come to faith in the Lord Jesus. I give God all the glory for all He has done and will continue to do in my life.

As you read this I wonder, are you saved ? Psalm 34:8 says "*O taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him*". Perhaps you are backslidden, remember God will not forget you, He has graven you on the palms of His hands ..... Isaiah 49:15,16.

Maureen Doherty