

2 Timothy 3:15

"From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

These words summarize both Grace and my testimony.

I was born and brought up in a Christian home. I do not ever remember a time when I was not aware of my need of salvation. My parents loved the Lord, and brought me, my brother Philip and sister Sharon to church twice every Sunday and I mean every Sunday. Church was not optional in our house, as dad was the minister!! I also went along to Sunday school on Sunday morning, and two children's meetings during the week. Despite the fact I had many opportunities to trust Christ, I never did so until a children's mission came to our church. I was about 7yrs old and one night, 28th November 1983, in our church after the meeting, I waited and trusted the Lord as my Saviour. Going to church, and other meetings, living in a Christian home was not sufficient to deal with my sins. I realised that night, in the words of Romans 10:13 that I must call on the Lord myself if I was to be saved.

Very early in my life, probably not long after I was saved, I remember vividly at different times telling the Lord I was willing to serve Him as He desired. I did so in different ways, singing with my family, with choirs, giving out tracts, testifying, witnessing to friends at school.

Of course there were times when I found it really difficult to take my stand for the Lord. In particular, I found the early years of secondary school a real struggle, to the point that I really queried at times was I saved at all? But the words of that verse in Romans 10:13 really stuck in my mind that if I had truly called on the Lord for salvation (and I had), then I was saved, and nothing could destroy that.

Thankfully the Lord was gracious to me and in the senior years of school I began to walk much closer with the Lord.

At 18 I met Grace and we started to go out together. At the same time I was doing teacher training at Stranmillis University College, Belfast.

After graduation, I took up a post in Enniskillen, and after a year went to Ballycastle High School where I stayed until June of 2004 when we both set off for CEF® Leadership Training Institute in Switzerland.

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