

A WORD OF TESTIMONY

It is great to have a testimony to the saving and keeping power of our Lord Jesus Christ, I thank the Lord for saving my soul for time and eternity, and to God be the glory. I was born on 6th February 1967 in Coleraine the eldest of three and was brought up by my Grandmother and Grandfather at their home near Articlave until I was about 4 years old. We moved to Articlave just before I started school that September. The school I attended was Hazlett Primary School.

I can remember my Mum and Dad bringing me up with Christian morals, my parents would attend Church and sent us to Sunday School each Sunday. I also attended the Boys Brigade Mum and Dad had a fear of God, what I did notice in those days in Articlave, no shops opened on Sunday, there was a respect for God and we had to keep the Lord's day. No football for me on Sunday which I didn't like. The sad thing about this way of living in the village was that most people had a form of Godliness 2 *Timothy 3 v 5 "Having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof, from such turn away"*. What I mean is this, we attended both Sunday Schools in the area at that time and Churches, but were never told that we needed to be saved. I never heard of the word saved, yet it is in the Bible. So what was I, my family and other families hearing. We were hearing a historical story about a man called Jesus Christ who died on a cross for sin of the world and that's where it stopped short.

So life went on much the same until May 1979 when a Gospel Mission came to our village from Coleraine Independent Methodist Church. The Minister was the Rev. William Parke. My Mother attended these meetings and I remember one night my Mum came home and told my Dad she had got saved. I couldn't understand what had happened, I thought that going to Church and doing our best was enough to get us into heaven when we died here on earth. I was never told or heard that I was a sinner and needed to be saved.

From that day in 1979 my Mum began to tell us of our need of a Saviour. She began to tell us we needed to repent of our sins (say sorry) to God and believe that Jesus died on the cross at Calvary for our sins. She began to send us to a little children's meeting called Life Lines in Coleraine Independent Methodist Church. There we were clearly shown that we needed to be saved. I was aged twelve at that time, I wanted to be saved, but now I believe my profession at twelve was shallow because I never went on.

I went the opposite way, the way of sin and pleasure and from about 14yrs - 32yrs of age my life consisted of drinking, smoking and drugs, enjoying the pleasures of sin. My way of thinking was to live life to the full because you are a long time dead. During that time between 1981 - 1999 I got married at 21 and had three lovely children and life seemed to be going okay. But sin pays out its consequences, and to my shame my marriage broke up in November 1998. From January 1999 God began to really speak to me in different circumstances, such as showing me that I was a sinner before Him and that if I died in my sin I would go to hell. I believed there was a God but I did not know Him.

My best friend had got saved in April 1998. I saw a change in his life, I know it was for real and it spoke to me. I would say that I want what he's got. In January 1999 I began to go to Gospel Meetings (faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God) God was really speaking to me and showing me my need to repent and turn to Jesus Christ for forgiveness. Sunday after Sunday at the Coleraine Independent Methodist Church I kept putting it off, until February 28th 1999 after having the Rev. Eric Stewart preached from *Jeremiah 1 vs 8,9 "Be not afraid of their faces"* I realized that I was afraid of what others would say and keep me going about being a Christian. That night in a little house in Ballysally around 11.30pm sitting in my friends kitchen I bowed my head, confessed to God that I was a sinner, believed that Jesus died for me and rose again the third day, I asked Jesus to come into my heart and save me from my sin. The peace that flooded my soul was indescribable, a peace that passes all understanding. I knew I was saved, born again of the Spirit of God, sins all forgiven. Old things passed away behold all things became new, I was a new creature in my Lord Jesus Christ. I thank Him so much for saving such a sinner as I and give Him all the praise and glory for keeping me each day. I sometimes fail Him but He never fails me. To know that God loves me and sent His Son to die for me, I sometimes cannot take it in. Why Me? Because He loved me, He loves you too and is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Don't allow your friends to laugh you into hell. They will never laugh you out of hell. Some day you will die, where will you spend eternity?. Please turn and repent and believe in my Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. - Amen.

Trevor Kane.