

A WORD OF TESTIMONY

I had the great privilege of being born into and brought up in a Christian home. Both my parents were save long before I was born. I was taken along to the Gospel meeting and Sunday School each Sunday, and and to a children's meeting each week, where I was taught the word of God faithfully, and my need to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for Salvation if ever I wanted to be in Heaven. I was also taken to many series of Gospel meetings which took place within reasonable driving distance from my home. It was not until much later in my life that I learned to appreciate my privileged upbringing.

I believe that God spoke to me a number of times in my early years. One thought that really terrified me was that of the Lord's return. There were times when I couldn't find my mother where I expected her to be, I looked everywhere frantically, and felt very relieved when I found her and knew that the Lord had not come, and left me behind.

When I was twelve years old I attended a series of meetings in a portable hall in a field in Garvagh. The preachers were Mr Jim Brown and Mr Jack Lennox. I don't remember having any serious thoughts about my soul at the meetings, until one particular Sunday night in August. I had gone into the meeting quite unconcerned, but during the preaching I remember the realisation dawning on me that, If I lived and died as I was, I would be in Hell for all eternity. Verses 8 and 9 of Ephesians Ch. 2 came into my mind "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast." I realised then that the Lord Jesus Christ had taken the punishment for my sins when He died on the cross at Calvary. There and then I put my trust in Him, and was saved, for time and eternity.

I was baptized at the age of sixteen and continued to walk with the Lord throughout my teenage years. However, Satan then attacked me with doubts, and enticed me out into the world.

I spent a few years following after the world, but found no lasting satisfaction of joy. The Bible says in 1 John 1 v 9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." And so I left my burden of sin at the cross and was restored to God. The barrier to communion with God was taken away, and the peace that I felt was indescribable.

A few months later I met Thomas, and a few years after that we were married. We searched for a Church in which we could fellowship with God's people, and grow in our faith, and I believe that God guided us to Portrush Baptist Church. We have been very happy there since, and have been greatly encouraged by the love of the Lord's people.

Jeremiah 29 v 13 "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

Elizabeth Craig.