

A WORD OF TESTIMONY

As a child of about seven years on a winters evening as I was falling asleep I heard my name being called. This woke me and I was reminded of the Bible story of young Samuel so I did as Eli told Samuel and said "Speak Lord thy servant heareth." This is where the comparison with Samuel ends as I was immediately convicted of the fact that I was not a servant of God but just a typical young rascal - the fourth of my parents five children - living on a farm near Bushmills.

A year or two later with my two older brothers we attended a mission in Ballytober Orange Hall taken by the Montgomery twins. I felt I should have spoken to the speaker but hadn't the courage. Walking home my brothers were not in agreement with the speaker but all I could say was that I thought he was right. A day or so later I felt God convicting me so I got down on my knees at my bedside and asked the Lord to forgive me. As I knew no other Christians and had no counseling I didn't tell anyone so made no progress in the Christian way for many years, not even considering myself saved. I felt dissatisfied not knowing whether I was a Christian or not, so I prayed and said that if I was at a mission again I would go forward for help. By a strange chain of events I got a job away from home and was in Belfast at the time of the Billy Graham Crusade being relayed from Kelvin Hall, Glasgow and saw the queue waiting to go in and was reminded of my promise to God. I joined the queue and heard the message and went forward and got good counsel from John 6 v 37 "him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" also the helpful booklet, Beginning With Christ and cards with memory verses to learn which were a great blessing and brought wonderful assurance of being accepted by God. That was on the 23rd of April 1955. I have disappointed the Lord many times since then but have found His Word and His promises remain firm.

James Mclean