

## A WORD OF TESTIMONY

Salvation entered my home in 1978 when my dad was saved and subsequently at the young age of 7 I asked the Lord Jesus to come into my heart and save me from my sins. I thank God that the gospel is so simple that even at this young age I understood my need to be saved.

In many ways my life didn't change significantly - I went to Church and Sunday School and worked my way through primary school not making any big impressions for God. But when I changed to secondary school my life was opened up to a great deal of new temptations and to my shame I didn't resist the pull of these, not having the strength to be seen as different among my school friends. During my time at secondary school I was living a sort of double life - in school I wasn't a Christian but at home, in church, in youth club I was a Christian. This double life certainly didn't bring happiness to me. I knew I wasn't living the way I should be, especially while sitting through gospel meetings Sunday after Sunday being reminded of the price Jesus paid for my sins. I especially remember being in a gospel meeting when the speaker spoke on Matthew 6:24 reminding us that we can't serve God and the world, we have to make a decision. This was effectively what I was trying to do. There were many Sunday evenings when I came home from church determined to start again and change the way that I was living but the Devil would then start whispering 'you couldn't keep it before so you won't be able to keep it now!'.

Then when I was 16 I left school and went to the local technical college. It was here that I met a christian girl and became friendly with her. The example of her life really spoke to me. Also at this time God really spoke to me and assured me that it wasn't me that would do the keeping it would be him. Once I accepted this and repented it was like a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders. It hasn't all been plain sailing since then, I have failed my Lord many times but he has never failed me. He has guided me and kept me safe. It's so reassuring now when I look back over my life and see the way that God has taken me. Many times things maybe didn't go the way I wanted but I can now see that this was for my benefit and everything worked out better at the end. God has also blessed me in so many ways, helping me pass exams at school and university, giving me a good job and a lovely family. All of these things I know I don't deserve but I thank God so much for.

If you are not a Christian please don't delay making a decision or even if you have backslidden God is just waiting for you to come back to him, he has never let go of you -remember our names are imprinted on his hands and he will never forget us. Being a Christian isn't always easy - you are not exempt from illness, problems, stress etc, but you are guaranteed a friend that sticketh closer than a brother and one who will be with you through all these trials and tribulations. And at the end of time best of all you will be in heaven with our lovely Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. I hope to see you there. *'Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.'* Isaiah 55:6

Sharon Gervais