Paedru's Testimony



If anyone hears my tiny voice amongst the massive Information Blob in the internet . You have come to the right place to hear about God's great saving power.

Where my seeking heart poured out my voice and reached the heavens and the heavenly father has responded. Yes,,I see Life differently now..

LIFE is now a leisure lake for me to swim in; as my Life depends entirely on him – The father almighty.

Let's take A little dip into faith.

I was in the kitchen cutting vegetables ..helping my mother in preparing breakfast and all my thoughts were chained in one direction – How do I do it ?? .. There was a massive task in front of me…Seeing LIFE for the first time at the closest where the onus for everything was directly on me and my brother.

Being a Christian I somehow had that shallow faith that the LORD will make it happen. But being a person who works in the corporate I just needed a Concrete plan. I believe the word JUST is over exaggerated in my previous statement considering all the hardships we had been through in the year 2013 & 2014 .

It seemed as if I had to stand and deliver in LIFE and nothing short of that was acceptable .. as one step short would mean like crashing down..

It was a perfect situation of man v/s Tide.

I will tell you a little about what the years were :

The Lord took my father in December 2013.I just could not comprehend, did not know how to react as I was caught up in my own world of working hard and became thick skinned as all my thoughts before that fateful day was about going abroad and advancing in career. As a result I really could not react to my father's death.. I was there but there was little I could do to save my father. Please don't get me wrong.. I ensured dad was in hospital and got treatment with all my strength but I did not take up his health issue as a top priority when there was time some months before ..thinking that he was recovering and God will take care of him without putting in my full efforts ..

Then what ensured after that was Chaos/confusion and more confusion to a point that Bad days had no end.

My brother being more compassionate and caring than I am took good care of my father.. Since he had taken care of my father before shifting to Chennai for a job..I was not so conscious about my father's degrading heath and eventually God took him from suffering into his own hands..

I felt bad for many things and eventually hated myself..

1. Why did I not do what I had to do as a son and take care of my father.

2. My father trusted me so much that at before his passing away he said that he had no worries of me and I could take care of myself in LIFE. At that point I had no clue of what was to come shortly afterwards….

3. After my dad went to heaven I continued working with zeal in the JOB..although not happily, but I put efforts again in work…I was selfish I think ; Mad…and really went on in with the demands of LIFE…

4. Even then, thoughts came about progressing in LIFE about a career jump etc…rather I should have dropped all worldly plans and just tried to move slowly in LIFE.

5. Many tasks came into my hands as my brother was caught up in Chennai and I had to handle it.

My Mom had to undergo Cataract surgery, She had developed high Blood pressure, She had to undergo Physiotherapy shortly afterwards , we had to do some transactions involving huge amount amongst all the emotional turmoil , one family friend cheated us of a huge amount of rupees, my mother was emotionally affected by her own brother's behavior. He lived just a stone's walk from our house but he discouraged my mother from going to their house when I was at work and when she was alone during the day by not behaving in a consoling manner. Apart from this my brother got a job back in Mumbai but one day before coming to Mumbai he met with a Bike accident and was saved by God's grace. My mother's eye on which the cataract surgery was done was accidently

injured. My knee was dislocated, Meanwhile we got news that some villagers had occupied two of our Lands. All of this happened when my father had dreamt that in next few months we will be going to Native place to settle down..So even his dreams were not materialized. And the last we missed our flight to go to native place from Mumbai on our dad's 1st year anniversary … And to add a final touch I almost lost my Job as I was released from a project in which I was working.

I was furious at the Lord. And even abused him many times. (Forgive me Lord)

The reason being…I had trusted him before my dad passed away .. Let's pitch back to a few months before my dad passed away as to why I trusted him and left his health completely into God's hands.

The mornings used to be happy and holy. I used to sleep till about 6:30 am after coming late at night and working hard. But my mom and dad used to wake up at about 5:30am go for morning walk .. come back ..immediately turn on a Channel in which God's preachings were aired. There used to be Godly music played in the channel ..I could almost everyday see my mom and dad reading the bible together. I used to happily leave the house to work as I could see both of them happy. I was contented.

I knew there was a humongous task in front of my dad as he had planned in settling down at native place. But I was confident that everything that seemed impossible like me changing my Job location and adjusting to a new environment will be possible by God's love on us. He would do it for us.

But everything crashed.. God changed the plans.

Now what…

I became a pessimistic about everything. I wanted to hate everything and everyone.. People who mattered to us before started behaving weirdly and selfishly and used to jeer and mock as if we were now totally destroyed. Some were even happy that such thing happened to my mother.

I was reluctant to do many things as task after task after task after task was burdened on me…I was emotionally burdened .. physically burdened to take care of mother, do many household tasks.. handle my Job(I really did not like to work but I had to do that ..)Somehow I was so over exhausted that occasionally I used to feel a slight pain on the left side ..like a physical piercing pain in my heart.. But did not have time to go to doctor as I was afraid it may reveal something severe medically and give additional burden.

I had to stand up..which I decide to do and eventually did.. But where is the time to mourn for the loss of my father?…I really did not have time..I had to put every iota of my thoughts into coming out of this mess .That is , I had to solve the practicalities of LIFE like..getting my mother treated….settling down in native place..getting married and see LIFE a few years ahead and plan accordingly.

In short I had no time for an emotional outburst which I really want to since I want to cry out and feel…I just didn't want to get over it….I really want my father back.. I lost him!!! Now only one practical option remains.. to see him in heaven when I am gone.(I personally don't like it since I want to see him happy in his retired LIFE).I want him here on earth with me..

Coming back to reality.. Somehow a year passed ..GoD worked his miracles through these tough and rough times.. Firstly My mother got a bit emotionally stable. One of our relatives stood up with us though this tough phase and by Gods grace he is helping us in many ways (he too is a strict catholic like us..God bless him)..and I almost lost my Job. Now how is that good??

I feel it is good because it was that Job that caused me to give priority to career..maybe I could have been more diligent in treating my dad.

I did take care of my dad in many ways but every doctor we went to could not help my father with all the side effects that he was experiencing.. May be it was Gods plan.

Now as of January 2015 I am writing this testimony to you wherein I am losing my Job and at this rate if I were to stay without a software project in my company, I will be eventually asked to leave the company. This is the Current status.

But we'll see how God changes it..

Let's backtrack to the scene of my narration where I was in the kitchen cutting vegetables……

I am thinking of the near future and pacifying myself ..

A thought says: It will become all right !!!

But suddenly another contradicting thought comes to my mind: But how to do it? What if things go wrong in Chennai (My Native place where my father wanted to settle down)….I have heard in Chennai robbers are ruthless in stealing.. It is not safe for my mother.

Another thought says: We have time but we need a plan..

Another thought says: We have enough material possessions it's just a matters of executing it ,.

Another thought says: Should I buy a house in Chennai.. But I don't have enough money for that..

Another thought says: How is LIFE going to be…?

And in this manner I am getting discouraged and confused all along the way**..(Devil wants us to be remain in fear and loose hope)**

Suddenly out of this confusion. I hear a voice in my conscience in a comforting and the most assuring manner : My Son! You just go. I will lead the way..(I have not given the exact words as I was overjoyed to an extends that I did not register them in my memory).It was the most assuring voice I heard and I can bet that my brain can't thing postives like this when I am already into some serious thinking.. Yes..It was God's voice..

…

And immediately my brain was able to pick up the waves and a scene of Moses leading the children of Egypt under the clear open light blue skies was created in my mid…My brain immediately thought ..Moses was too given a tough task.. He had an entire army to take out.. Did not know where to go ..He could easily have been worried like I was.. But he had immense and extreme confidence in the LORD that was unshakable come what may…The task and troubles are nothing in front of the LORD..

I became very relieved and happy and light hearted and cheerful that morning that I felt so light that I immediately started praying and praising the Lord..I can't describe it. You got to feel it to know it.

*All that I remember that I was quiet at that time and God heard my fears and worries. Remember God talks when you are quiet.. That is why morning time is the right time to pray.. since you are fresh from bed and you mind is thoughtless.

I say to you my dear friend ..the Bible is a living word .. When you read it; it might seem like a History text book.. like recounting incidents that happened long long ago..

But remember ,it is relevant and the words and quotes that the LORD used to help his children (Moses,Job,….)out of harms way in the bible will be used to speak to you so that you know when the LORD is speaking to you.. **In my case God told the words of leading the way for me and taking complete ownership of my problems.**

When the Lord speaks you will feel as if you are comforted. If any of you reading this happens to be a practical and scientific thinker, you will be tempted to think that the brain is releasing some Alpha waves which is motivating you.. It is not that it- It is stronger than those thoughts..

Loose yourself when that happens.. Don't think ; just let the emotions flow.. Cause when God touches you by the power of the holy spirit sometime people get the gift of tongues..or the gift of tears…Some begin to cry, some become Overjoyed.. I became overjoyed ..

This is THE PROMISE that the Lord gave only to you..

This is the first level.. where you have prayed to him and he has listened your prayers and he also has expressed it for you..

The second level is FAITH… **This is what counts**…(And for the Non-believers this is the differentiating point between practical thinking and miracles happening.. Beyond this point all practical thought and efforts spend in any direction is useless and a mere waste)

Yes FAITH..is what takes you there ..like where Moses reached to the safest and farthest point where pharaoh's men could not reach .

What is FAITH then ?? FAITH is where no logic applies.. If you try to apply logic then you just lost the charm of it. The gift that was your way won't come to you…It is revoked..(Pls correct me if I am wrong about the revoking part since I speak from my experience)..

I believe faith is what convinces God that you wholeheartedly trust him..

I will give you example of how to apply faith in the below narration.

Faith is something you need to **apply** ..even if you get distracted and are not convinced.

I have highlighted the word **Apply** since Faith means to apply God's love and promise without trusting your instincts and logic.

Just do what the Lord commands no interruption and interpretation from your side is expected !!!

In my case what was God's promise? .. It was that he will lead the way..

Coming back to the same day in the morning…

I am overjoyed now .. I went to office and spent the day reading through mails and I got information that there is a Walkin Interview that's happening on the very next day i.e a Saturday.

Usually I had bad experiences in Walkin interviews. I have attended numerous of walkins..Failed badly and strongly believed I need someone to set me up in the company to get selected.. So it was a very faint opportunity of getting selected. But I need that job badly as I was about to loose my job.

Anyways I walked into the interview venue on the next day and God begins to give me symptoms of his presence . – I was confident that morning. I checked in as candidate number 12 into the office which is one of my lucky numbers. I was called first to give my interview. The person taking my interview did not seem so professional or intimidating nor did he seem very learned or did he seem negative. He seemed very normal in normal clothes and was average looking by appearance which indeed boosted my confidence and I gave the best shot in God's given strength.

Second round also went well that the interviewer almost told me I was selected. I walked out of the venue happy and contended.

Two days passed no sign of a call or confirmation that I am selected. I am waiting patiently with confidence in the Lord's promise ..In our two day's morning prayers we had this intention of JOB for me .

Nothing happened yet. So I started thinking hard trying to get any way to find if I am in the job or not. I suddenly remembered a colleague from my office also had attended the interview on Saturday and she too had cleared two rounds. So I started to think if I should ask her if she got any confirmation about the job for her. I was so desperate

Immediately I got a message from God in my mind. **Trust the LORD.**

This meant I should not ask her for any clue or try any logical ways to know about the Job. Which will imply that I am not trusting the Lord and trying to desperately get the information.

So I went to office as usual. Again the devil strikes back and I went to meet her and to ask her.

Before I was to talk to her again this message clearly is played in my mind repeatedly to trust God. So confidently I walked back and never asked her and waited patiently in Lord's promise.

.On the third day too we lit candles and prayed specially for this intention. Within two hours before I was to leave for job that day I got a mail from the company asking me to submit document to process the JOB offer. (Praise the LORD!!!)

Today as I write this testimony I am waiting to get the final Job Offer letter yet. But I am trusting the Lord it will happen and I am least worried now.

Coming back to other problems to solve for my family.. Now I believe God has stepped into our Lives. He will take over.. I whole heartedly believe that too. And I KNOW he will time to time give me messages in my conscience to take the right decisions and steps provided I keep my soul clean.

I am writing this as I still have one favor to ask God.. that he show me a VISION of my dad in heaven.. After that in LIFE I will not ask anything no more.. Praise be to God .

I am writing this testimony so that the LORD will speak to **YOU** somehow.. You just have to be tuned in and raise your troubles unto him..He chooses channels to talk to you depending upon your personality and strength of your belief:

a. For people like me , who like to be time and again reminded of God's love.. and who wants to convince myself that God really exists ..God uses Your conscience to talk to you..
b. For people that still don't' know about Jesus or even heard about him.. he will appear to him .
c. For people who are innocent he will protect them.

My advice- Stay tuned always as God constantly speaks to you through your conscience everywhere you go and in everything that you do.

Praise be to GOD. Praise be to Jesus.

Dewey's Testimony



My Testimony

***Note: The text and numbers that are included in parenthesis are references to verses in The Bible. They are included for support and encouragement to all who read this testimony.**

This is my personal testimony regarding how Jesus Christ has changed my life:

Introduction:

Process. This single word can be used to summarize my relationship with Jesus Christ. Defined as "a series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end," the process of which I am referring to is God sculpting me into the "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14) masterpiece that He has created me to be. The "series of actions/steps" involved in the sculpting

procedures are never-ending and I will not be a finalized work until until I reside in The Kingdom of Heaven (1 Peter 5:10). However, my journey with Christ during my Earthly life is not one of perfection, but of direction. Although that journey tends to be ever changing and unpredictable, the direction always remains constant- Steadfast pursuit towards "the narrow gate" (Matthew 7:13-14) with the Heavenly Father as my guide (Psalm 32:8). With each passing day, God continues to mold me into the Disciple I was created to be (Isaiah 64:8). Throughout the course of this eternal walk with God, it is only Him that I wish to receive glory, honor and praise; I am merely a vessel at the disposal of my Master (2 Timothy 2:21). The Lord has placed it on my heart to publicly share my story of being redeemed by His Grace and Love, and it is my prayer that through the sharing of my testimony, God's Love can be witnessed and received by somebody who comes across this text. To all reading this, may The Lord bless you and keep you everyday of your life (Numbers 6:24), and may you come to experience the greatest love this world has ever seen through a relationship with Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5)! Never forget: God loves you more than you could ever fathom no matter who you are, where you come from or what you have done in your life (Romans 5:8)!

Some background information about my life, and the mission that The Lord has placed on my heart to carry out:

My name is Dewey Dovel, and I am a Disciple of Jesus Christ. My mission for my life is to do everything in my power to spread The Gospel to all of creation (Mark 16:15), while sharing God's Love in my words and deeds (1 Corinthians 16:14). I want to be a "fisher of people" (Matthew 4:19), and a bold witness for The Lord (Acts 4:29). I want to live my life as a humble servant of The Kingdom of God consecrated to our Heavenly Father in order to fulfill my life's purpose: Complete devotion to carrying out "The Great Commission" (Matthew 28:18-20). I have been called to preach The Gospel, and I will do so as enthusiastically, eagerly and passionately as I can (Romans 1:15) while being as obedient as possible to the direction and guidance that the Holy Spirit provides me with throughout the course of my ministry/life (John 16:13). I couldn't feel anymore blessed or humbled in regards to where my life is taking me, and in the fact that God would anoint me with a future of proclaiming His Message; As the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:16: "For when I preach The Gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach The Gospel." I truly am compelled to preach The Truth that is Jesus Christ (John 14:6) and the love that He has for the WHOLE world (John 3:16). I believe that there is no greater message to be shared in our world, than the message that is God's Love for humans exhibited through what Christ did for us on The Cross (1 John 4:10). It is His everlasting love that millions in our world today are longing for; They search to fill the void in their lives with anything they can find to satisfy the eternal emptiness that encompasses their hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Millions relish in temporary sin and pleasure to escape from the problems that they are faced with on a daily basis only to be disappointed and further grieved as their efforts to escape prove to be futile (Hebrews 11:25). Many individuals are searching for truth to the seemingly endless questions that are present in our world while longing for a better tomorrow (John 18:38). Our world wants change, revolution and solutions to fix our society and rescue mankind from the pits of our own self-destruction! It is only through Jesus Christ that we can witness a transformation in the hearts of humans (Ezekiel 36:26). Only through Christ can man find the solution to its problems and fill the void that is present at its core (Psalm 16:11).

Only through Jesus Christ can we experience the hope and change we long for as a world (1 Peter 1:3)! It is through Christ alone that my life was forever changed! He has brought me a renewed life filled with joy, peace, rest and hope for my future. In placing your trust in Him, He will do the same for you! (Matthew 11:28-30)

Prologue To My Testimony:

Now I know this introduction of who I am might make me appear as if I have had my life together from day one. Many people that I have shared these aspirations and desires for my life with are blown away by my passion and zeal I have for what God has called me to do; Many are quick to note that the typical 19 year old college student would much rather be intoxicated with the world than intoxicated with the Holy Spirit! Truthfully, I wish I could honestly say that the man described in my introductory paragraphs was the man that I have been since day one. As I alluded to towards the end of the previous paragraph, that man being described couldn't be any farther from the man I was before I met Christ! As a matter of fact, the man described in the previous paragraph does not paint an accurate picture of the man that I was the first 17 years of my life. In actuality, my past paints a clear picture of the two faced, narcissist, porn addicted, insecure, spiritually lost young man that I was until the moment when The Lord rescued me from the clutches of worldliness. It wasn't until I turned to Jesus Christ, repented (turned away from) of my sin and accepted Him as my Lord and Savior by receiving Him into my heart by faith that my life was changed. It wasn't by good works or anything that I ever did to earn my salvation or righteousness in the eyes of The Lord, but it was God's Grace alone that saved me from my hopeless life (Ephesians 2:8-9). It was through God's Power manifested through the Holy Spirit that regenerated my life, and continues to direct the course of my life on a daily basis. Jesus Christ set me free (John 8:36), and gradually pulled me out of the abyss that was Satan's grasp on my life. It was at The Cross where my life was changed forever; As I discovered from personal experience, it is ONLY at The Cross where our lives can be made new, and restored eternally through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)!

Testimony:

I grew up in a household with a family strong in their Christian faith. As a child, I constantly sought my parent's approval and did everything I could to make them proud of me. My parents showered me in nothing but love, and I couldn't be anymore blessed or thankful to have them as my parents. I loved nothing more than the feeling of pleasing my parents, and over the course of time I made it my top priority to receive attention and praise from them. However, as I began elementary school it didn't take me long to realize that it would take a different kind of behavior in order to stand out in front of my classmates. From my perspective at the time, the behavior that was necessary to obtain attention from my peers was not the same behavior that my parents had taught me during my childhood. I knew that in order to be "cool" and "fit in," I would have to act in a way that was similar to the people I was surrounded with. Although this behavior would not reflect how my parents raised me, I was willing to do whatever it took to win the approval of my peer group. After all, garnering attention and praise from my parents had always been great, so naturally I assumed that any kind of attention received from my peers would be equally as satisfying. I wanted popularity, I wanted

acceptance and I was not going to be labeled as average. My desire for self-gratification and attention was so powerful (even at a young age), that I began to act out in any way possible to be the center of attention. The line that divided right and wrong became a blur to me as I starved for prominence in my social circle; Because I believed it would make me "cool and grown up," I began to swear at the age of 7. In a short amount of time, my flamboyance and ostentatious antics began to gain me the notoriety that I hoped for. In reflection, the publicity I was receiving from my classmates was more negative than positive. Nevertheless, I was satisfied that people were paying attention to me. Like it was with my parents (in my eyes), the actions of Dewey Dovel were the focal point of my peers. Unfortunately, I got to the point to where I was living two lives: the one my parents saw at home while I was in their presence, and the one I lived when I was around my peers. This was only the beginning of my gradual start down a slippery slope that only led to feelings of emptiness, discontentment and inadequacy. Before long, my growing thirst for social acceptance and conditional happiness would reach such a point that nothing could quench it. Heading into the genesis of my adolescence, I was in trouble.

I was confirmed and baptized at Crossroads United Methodist Church when I was 11 years old. As I previously noted, my family was strong in their faith, and as far as I was concerned I had inherited their faith/religious beliefs. We attended church as regularly as we could, and from conversations with my parents in addition to what I learned at church, I had a decent idea (for an 11 year old) about who Jesus was, and what He did for mankind. I also knew that if one was a Christian, they got to go to Heaven and at the time that was enough for me to want to be a Christian. After all, in my thought process I determined that one would be crazy to not want to go to Heaven! It was also around this time that I discovered that many of my classmates were beginning to be baptized or had already been baptized. I did not want to be left out of something that appeared to be the popular thing to do amongst my peers. So around the beginning of 6th grade, I began to ask my parents if I could be baptized since I was a "Christian." I told them exactly what I knew they wanted to hear: "I believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins and I accept Him as my Lord and Savior." Sure enough, my plea for their approval regarding my baptism was good enough to receive their blessing. Following a "Confirmation" process through our church, I was baptized and I couldn't have been any happier! My parents were so proud of me, and now I finally had the justification to brag to my classmates that I was baptized. Looking back, in my heart I know that although I had been baptized and had "accepted" Christ, I had not fully surrendered my life to Him; I had not truly accepted Christ into my heart, but merely said the right things to appease my parents so I could do what I believed to be the popular thing to do at the time. The fruit that was produced (See Matthew 7:15-20) in my life for the next 6 years would prove that I was still as spiritually lost as I was before I was baptized. Honestly, things only got worse for me (spiritually/emotionally/socially) from that day forward for quite some time.

My life was a blur from that day forward. On the surface, things were looking great; I was excelling in school and in baseball. My parents couldn't have been any more proud of the man I was becoming. I was attending church weekly, and proudly proclaimed that I was a Christian to my peers. Life was about as good as it could have been, or so it would appear to be from the outside. Truthfully, reflecting back on my life from 11-17, I couldn't have been anymore miserable. At the age

of 13, I became addicted to pornography. My misery was fueled by this powerful addiction and the effects of my newfound obsession would prove to be tumultuous. I was fascinated with the visual and physical temporary pleasure that pornography offered me. I knew from my parent's instruction that premarital sex was wrong, and somehow to this day I have abstained from it. However, my mentality soon became that if I could not have sex, I was going to get all the sexual satisfaction I wanted from what online pornography had to offer me. It did not take me long to become consumed with lust, and buried deep in the trap that is porn. Also, my language and dialect was very inappropriate; It felt as if every other word I said was a curse word, and try as I did, I could not stop cursing by my own power. What had begun as an attempt to sound cool to impress my peers had now become words that were rooted deep within my vocabulary. Worst of all, as middle school progressed into high school, my efforts to win the approval of my peers were failing. Out of frustration for what I perceived as a lack of my classmate's appreciation of me, I began to treat many of my peers very poorly, and from that moment forward I felt that the only way I could get any acceptance was to act out in negative ways. This would result in me spending more time in the halls exiled from class than actually in the classroom. Because of growing insecurity of my public perception, I began to brag about my ability to play baseball and would lie/exaggerate about anything that could make me appear honorable to my classmates. I was completely enslaved to my desire to be popular, admired and accepted. Seeing my continued failures of gaining social acceptance only compounded my despair. To counter my growing depression, I turned to pornography even more and used it as an outlet to escape my self imposed "problems." Pornographic material provided me with a temporary outlet to satisfy myself and take my mind off of my growing social failures. I began to fall deeper and deeper into worldliness, which only magnified the temptations that were present in my life. Of course, with no Biblical foundation or relationship with God, I had no power of my own to withhold from porn or other forms of sin that I clearly knew were wrong. I trudged through my first two years of high school before I changed schools. The change of schools was the most difficult thing that I had endured at that point of my life. Not only was I separated from the few friends I had at my previous school, but I became a social outcast at my new educational institution. I can't begin to express the depression I felt on a daily basis during my junior year of high school. I had zero true friends and felt lost and alone. Granted, I had completely brought everything on myself. I was difficult to relate to, made little effort in participating in fellowship with my new classmates and distanced myself socially in fear of being rejected. As my senior year of high school rolled around, I was at rock bottom spiritually, emotionally and socially. I was deeply depressed, and I began to feel more alone than I had ever felt in my entire life. I had no desire to live, and thoughts began to cross my mind as to if anybody would even care if I died. In my opinion, my life lacked purpose and I felt as if my future had no direction whatsoever. All of this led up to November 18, 2012 when my life was changed forever; It was on that date that I met the "Prince of Peace" for the first time in my life (Isaiah 9:6). In a matter of minutes following my introduction to Him, my life was never the same.

It was Thanksgiving Break. I was at my Grandmother's house alone, and I was deep in thought on the living room couch. Nothing in my life seemed to bring me any satisfaction. I felt exhausted spiritually from carrying the weight of my sinful baggage that I had accumulated from years of pornography addiction, self imposed social rejection and insecurities surrounding my public image in the eyes of my peers. I didn't know where else to turn, and as far as I was concerned life had lost

its appeal. In hindsight, I was so consumed with the negative effects that my sin was having on my life that I was completely oblivious to all of what I had been blessed with. I had a full college baseball scholarship, I was set to graduate high school with honors and my family had provided me with virtually everything that I had ever asked for. Yet in the midst of it all, I could only dwell on my countless failed attempts at obtaining the social clout and attention that I craved. At some point during that emotional "pity party," I took out my cell phone in preparation to watch a pornographic video in order to escape from the onslaught of my despairing thoughts. As I took the phone out of my pocket, I noticed out of the corner of my eye a small book sitting on my Grandmother's coffee table. For whatever reason, I decided to pick it up and see what it was; It was a daily devotional book! Intrigued, I put my phone back in my pocket and started flipping through the pages and realized that there was a specific devotional for each individual date for every day of the year. I proceeded to turn to the November 18 devotional (the date of that particular day) and began to read the contents of the page. Immediately, my eyes burned from the tears that began to form, and before long I was weeping in the middle of my Grandmother's living room. Everything that I had been going through in my life socially, emotionally and spiritually was written on that page. It was as if I had given an interview of my life to a reporter, and I was reading the notes that were taken over what I had said. After I finished reading the devotional, I did something that I hadn't sincerely done in over 6 years- I prayed! In prayer, I asked God for the forgiveness of my sin, and begged for Jesus to come into my heart. I pleaded to my Heavenly Father that He would help give me the strength to change my life, turn away from my sin and restore it in such a way to remove my pain, insecurities and depression. Following my prayer, I felt a greater peace than I had ever felt in my entire life. Nothing special happened to me physically, but in my heart I knew that something had changed. At that moment, I officially was Born Again (John 3:3)! It was November 18, 2012 that I secured my eternal citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven. From that day forward, God began to transform every facet of my life! (Romans 12:1-2)

Through the power of The Holy Spirit, I put on "the new self," (Ephesians 4:24) or became a new Dewey Dovel! Obviously, the change I was undergoing was a process; I did not overcome my life of habitual sin overnight. However, the more I prayed, and the more frequently I read my Bible, the less attractive my old lifestyle trends became. I actually began to have success in overcoming the temptations in my life that were causing me to stumble and experience the heartache/inadequacy that I had been feeling for so many years. Slowly but surely, my language and dialect became more appropriate (Ephesians 5:4 & James 3:11). Over the course of a year and a half, my battle in overcoming pornography addiction was complete through the Power of Jesus Christ! I discovered that the Power and Authority I had in the Name of Jesus was far more powerful than my lustful urges and sinful nature (Luke 10:19)! Also, The Lord freed me from the domineering insecurities of pleasing all of my peers. I began to solely focus on living out God's Will for my life to the best of my ability, and in time my concern for popularity/social prestige vanquished (Galatians 1:10 & 1 Thessalonians 2:4). To my surprise, the less I focused on being popular and forcing my peers to like me, the more my peers showed me their approval/favor. Nearly a year following me becoming Born Again on that November afternoon at my Grandmother's house, God called me to preach The Gospel. In June 2014, I was baptized again firmly solidifying my full circle in being transformed by The Lord into a New Creation! To make a long story short, God changed my life. It was through my faith in

Him, and the encouragement He gave me through what The Bible teaches us about His Love that I could be set free from my life of sin (Romans 6:15-23). Honestly, overcoming my sin was not an easy task. The change was not instantaneous, and it was not always smooth sailing. There were many periods of frustration and confusion. There were occasional instances in which I would suffer a temporary relapse into pornography or cursing. However, the constant factor that gave me the strength to overcome my intoxication with worldliness was God's Love for me! I realized that no matter how many times I stumbled, God's support and love never wavered (Psalm 136:1). When I was at my lowest moments, God was right by my side (Psalm 23:4). He was always with me, even before I knew Him intimately through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 13:5). It was through Christ that I had the strength to overcome all the inequity in my life that was bogging me down (Philippians 4:13). It was Christ that gave me a new peace, a new hope and a fresh start in my life (Lamentations 5:21). No matter how many times I stumble (I continue to stumble more than I could ever keep track of), God's Love is enough to cover all my wrongs (Proverbs 10:12)! Jesus Christ has paid the price for my sin (1 Corinthians 6:19-20); He has made me righteous before God (1 Corinthians 1:30), given me new life (Galatians 2:19-21) and ONLY Christ deserves all glory, honor and praise (Revelation 5:12)! Not only has Jesus Christ changed my life, but He has the power to revolutionize EVERY life! He was sent by God to be the sacrifice for the sin of the WHOLE world! He is available to ALL people! (1 Timothy 2:4) He is ready to make an eternal impact on your life if you allow Him to do so! (James 4:8) Have you placed your trust and faith in Jesus Christ? Have you personally met the Prince of Peace?

Decision:

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."- John 8:34

Some of you reading this testimony might very well be prisoners to sin. You are prisoners to pride. You are prisoners to jealousy. You are prisoners to lust or insecurities. You are in bondage to some sort of immorality and you long to be set free. You are a prisoner and you have tried time after time to be set free, but you haven't been able to escape through your own strength. I tell you the truth, you can be set free by Jesus Christ! The truth shall set you free!

It is through Jesus Christ that we are set free from the shackles and bondage of all our sin, mistakes and failures. It was only through God's Divine, Perfect Love that our lives can be transformed. It is through the precious blood of Jesus Christ that we can be set free of all our sins! (Romans 3:22) On that cross 2000 years ago, Christ bore all of our sin, guilt and shame; On that cross, Jesus Christ endured the epitome of the most humiliating, torturous way to die for EVERY person that has ever or will ever live! It is through God's Mercy, Forgiveness, Grace and Love that we have forever been set free of our transgressions when we freely receive Jesus Christ into our hearts as our Lord and Savior!

Jesus Christ came to save mankind! He came to set the whole world free from the bondage of sin!

That means everybody! That means YOU! He thought about YOU on that Cross! Jesus Christ belongs to the whole world! He belongs to every race, gender, and ethnicity! He belongs to every sinner! He is the atonement for all sins! He lived a perfect, sinless life and willingly died on the cross to wipe away your sins once and for all! You can be cleansed, and you can have a clean slate from all your past, present and future transgressions! Through Jesus Christ, you can be eternally set free and eternally forgiven! All you have to do is ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart by faith, freely receive Him as your Lord and Savior, and turn away from your sin (repent) with the help of God through His Holy Spirit! It's as simple as that!

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."- 2 Corinthians 5:21

Wouldn't it be awesome to go to bed tonight and every night thereafter knowing you're forgiven of your sins? Wouldn't it be refreshing to know everyday that you are going to Heaven, and someday you will get to dwell with God for all of eternity? You can have that peace and assuredness by coming to The Cross, and accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior by FAITH!

"I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."- 2 Corinthians 6:2

Have you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If so, say a similar version of this prayer to yourself, and at the conclusion of it you can know that you are forever saved! (See Romans 10:9-13)

Sinner's Prayer:

Dear God, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ. I acknowledge to You that I am a sinner, and I am sorry for my sins and the life that I have lived; I need your forgiveness.

I believe that your only Son Jesus Christ shed His precious blood on the cross and died for my sins, and I am now willing to turn from my sin in repentance.

You said in Your Holy Word, Romans 10:9 that if we confess that Jesus is Lord, and believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead, we shall be saved.

Right now God, I have acknowledged to you that I accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. With my heart, I believe that You raised Jesus from the dead, and I receive Him into my heart by faith. At this very moment I have become Born Again, and accept Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior and according to His Word, right now I am saved.

Thank you Jesus for your unlimited grace which has saved me from my sins. Lord Jesus transform my life so that I may bring glory and honor to you alone and not to myself.

Thank you Jesus for dying for me and giving me eternal life.

Study Notes for the Sunday Mass Published by Christians for Christ Ministries. We are a non-denominational Christian ministry that seeks to encourage and facilitate Christians in studying the Holy Scriptures. **"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus."** 1 Timothy 2:5

In Jesus' Name I Pray,

Amen.

If you just said this prayer and you meant it with all your heart, you are saved and you are Born Again. The Kingdom of Heaven is rejoicing at this very moment as new members of God's Kingdom have been established (Luke 15:10)! Congratulations! You are going to Heaven, and nothing will ever be able to take that away from you! The truth has set you free, and the truth (Jesus Christ) will be with you for the rest of your lives! Moving forward, I encourage you to get involved regularly with a church or Bible Study program to help you grow in your faith. Once you find a church home, the next step is to become water-baptized. By accepting Christ you are baptized in the spirit (John 20:22), but it is through water baptism that you show your obedience to God (Romans 6:3-8). Water baptism is a symbol of salvation from the dead, and a public profession of our faith in Christ.

This is only the beginning of your walk with The Lord! May our Heavenly Father bless you and keep you everyday of your life, while serving as your guide as you embark on your journey with Him by your side forever!

God Bless!

"…And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."- Matthew 28:20

Hanah's Testimony



When I was in my 4th year high school, I used to be very spoiled and lazy. I never really cared about my grades since my only aim was just to pass. Every day when I got home from school, my first destination would be my computer. I would spend my whole night lazing around the computer instead of spending the whole night with my family. I would always remember the tiring face of my parents whenever I arrive in the house. I can see that they've been doing their best to send me and my brothers to school. That kind of love that they sacrificed themselves for our sake never reached me. I was immature back then. I was in the dark. I was blinded. The things I should have valued back then should have been the things that can't be bought my money and I regretted that the most. The sinner, ugly, terrible and nightmare 'me' was my worst enemy and I didn't realize it until God taught me a lesson. The lesson made me come to God. It made me know him. It made me desire him more and more.

It was 4 weeks before college starts. It was Sunday, my brothers and I are getting ready to go to church. My parents can't go since my father's heart started aching and I was very worried, so I asked mom to watch over him. When I got home from church, my father was still there, massaging his heart. I asked him if it was really serious and he nodded. I told my mom to send him to the hospital but my mom said it was just normal. I was angry when my mom said that. She didn't realize that it was really serious. I entered the room where my father was at. I asked him plenty of questions about the symptoms he experienced; my father participated and answered all my questions. I want to help figure out my father's sickness since my mom doesn't want to take him to the doctor. I wrote down everything he said and I searched it on Google, but no matter how hard I try to search for answers, I really can't find it. Let's face it, I am not a doctor and trying to be one doesn't help in our case.

I forced my mom to let him go to the doctor, but my mom won't budge. She's still determined about

not letting my dad go. That night, my father finally said that he wants go to see the doctor, so my mom finally agreed. I was in front of my computer, surfing the net when my parents started packing. Before my father left, I asked him if he wants to bring his bible. He smiled and said yes. I was happy to see him smile. He loves the Lord more than ever. He loves him more than us and that's enough for me to smile while writing this. I got the bible and gave it to him. After a few minutes, they went off. I waved good bye to them, and I never knew that, that was the last time that I would see him…
I was the one watching my parents' business since they're both in the hospital. I manage their business while watching Korean dramas. I was irritated. I wished my mom closed the store so that I wouldn't be the one watching it. Anyways, my dad was immediately sent to the ICU and my mom frowned at that. ICU was expensive and my mom doesn't want to spend money on expensive bills. My mom wants the nurses to transfer my dad to a normal room. After 2 days, my father was transferred to a normal room. It was Thursday when my father asked to see me. I wasn't able to go since I have to watch over the business. I was at the store and my brothers and I were planning to see my dad, to have dinner together with him.

My mother called and my brother was the one who picked up the phone. Suddenly, my brother yelled, "Dad can't breathe! hurry!
I was in between of reality and imaginations. I don't know if it were true. The reality never sunk in that moment. I thought I was dreaming. I thought it was all me. I thought it was all just a prank. But as I look at my brother's face, I know then that it was no joke. I was finally convinced that it was true, that it was not a dream, imaginations nor a prank. This is the moment when all things became important, and every seconds of that time was very important.

I hurriedly ran outside the house with my brothers, leaving behind the store. Who cares about the store when my father is in that kind of state??

While we were on the cab, me and my two brothers kept on praying to God non-stop. We prayed to spare my dad's life. When we got to the hospital, we asked the information desk on what door number is our dad. They said the number and we rashly run to the stairs.

When we arrived on the 4th floor, I saw my mother outside the room, talking with my dad's doctor. My mom's face was so troubled. And in an unconscious moment, my feet and hands began to trouble as I kept nearer and nearer to the door, that seemed to be the scariest thing that I've ever seen and felt in my entire life. When I finally arrived, there were nurses and doctors everywhere. They were pumping my dad's heart, in hope of him being revived. As I was standing with my stoned-body, the only thing I could hear was the sound of the ECG. It made my heart beat in panic.
I can't take it anymore. I can't stand there looking at my dad, as he fights for his life. So, I ran outside the room, and into the hall. I found a dark place where I could be alone. At that place, I prayed to God desperately, seeking for his mercy and his grace. I cried, but not too much. My hands were still shaking while I sat there, almost losing my sanity. While I was praying, a feeling came to me, a feeling that I was not sincere, that I was just blurting words and words just to save my dad. I was only thinking of myself and I was not thinking of God because I half-didn't believe that he would revive my dad.

I was a Christian ever since my childhood. But now that I think about it, I was only a Christian by religion only. But at some point of time, I believed in Jesus, I believed in the Holy Spirit and also the God of all Gods.

And then, my brother came to me with a loud voice. I can't hear him since he's not being very clear. At first, I thought he was laughing but as he came nearer to me, I could hear his voice clearly. He was crying, together with my little brother. "Dad is gone!" He cried loudly.

I was shock and I almost can't believe it. My dad…my dad was gone?? Was this true? Wait no…he's just sleeping, yeah…he's probably sleeping. Don't worry about it… I'm alright. I would see him after all this was over…this is just a terrible dream…just a nightmare. I would wake up soon…

I was not crying when all my two brothers were crying. I was staring at the ground, staring like a broken doll. But I knew that I need to comfort my brothers, so I told them that Dad is in heaven. They also agreed. So, their cries lessen a little.

I went to my mother and I saw her sitting beside my dad. Her eyes had dried because of too much crying.
And then, I focused to my dad's lifeless body. I touched his cold feet with a sorrow feeling within my heart. My dad had left us. Suddenly, all memories of him came showering on my mind. The time when we fought, the time when I got him angry, the time when all of us laugh, the time when all family ate together and the time when we talked about God.

He was a Christian, he believed in Jesus and his life was devoted to only serving him. I would see him reading his bible every night and when trouble comes, like the time when his heart started aching; he immediately got up and read the bible for 3 hours straight. Can't you believe it? The most trouble times he had, he spent it with the Lord. He never complained about his illness nor does he cry about it. He was a strong dad. He's a very kind and loving father. He was loyal to my mother and he really loves us. He also served the Lord with a loyal heart, which is why I was moved by his loyalty towards God.

I started thinking about God and I came to this conclusion. I need God and I can't live without him. The day of my father's burial was also the day that I will attend the youth camp. It was a perfect timing. It felt like God has planned all this.

While I was in the camp, God suddenly touched my heart. It was amazing. It's the feeling of comfort and peace.

Before my father passed away, I was enslaved by my computer. I can't live without my computer and when my parents try to take it away from me, I get very angry. I was worshiping this computer; it is because I put this computer before God.

And God planned to free me from this slavery. The reason why he took dad with him was because he wants me and my family to come to know him. He wants us to realize that he is merciful and full of

love. He is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. He is everything.

After the camp, I was scared to go home. I can't bare the feeling that I will remember the memories with my dad again. So, I prayed and ask God to be my strength and my comforter. I asked him to be my guidance when I go home. I pleaded him to take away these aching feeling. And he heard my prayers and guided me to my house. Although I still remember the memories, it was different. It was a warm kind of set-up. It was God saying that my dad is there with him.

Hanah

Tyler's Testimony: Discovering the all Powerful God



It looks like I have it easy. I have a good family, have plenty of money, I go to church every week, I have good friends. But they don't know what is really going on inside me. My life took a wrong turn A long time ago when I first decided to look up something bad on the internet.

It was third grade and the teachers left me in her class room alone to heat up my corndog while the rest of the class went to lunch. I saw her computer siting open and seized the opportunity. I googled "boob". I saw pictures and I liked it and I knew it was wrong. Next I did it at home. Then when I got

my first ipod I could do it almost anywhere. I was looking at all kinds of porn. Then as if the lust wasn't enough I discovered masturbation. Wanna guess how? Watching a porn video. So now I could feel like I was having sex with the girlss in the videos. All the while, knowing all this was wrong, I continued to do it. Sometimes I would look up things about guys naked because I wanted to see if I was growing normally. This was not a good decision. Eventually I got bored with the porn and wanted more. I've learned that even sin gets bored and look for ways to become more exciting. I remembered looking up the guys and figured I could look up guys masturbating videos so I could learn some more exciting methods. Another bad Idea. This led to more of a porn addiction and morphed into something even worse: a gay porn addiction. Every day when I got home from school I would go "take a shower" and masturbate watching videos on my iPod until I got a phone and used it. I loved it until it was over and then I would cry and pray and ask forgiveness. But what would I do the next day? Do it all over again. To gay porn, because the straight porn was old hat. Soon I started looking at guys in a sexual way even some of my friends. I hated it so much but I knew I'd done it to myself. By the time I turned fifteen i had enough but by this time, an addiction is and addiction and you can't just stop. I really repented on December 10th 2014. It lasted a week before I lost track of the praying and reading and everything and was back to my old self. Then late January I had enough. After the nights shower I went to bed and closed the door and started my usual forgive me prayer. It went on for hours of crying and listening to gospel music and reading psalms until I just started yelling at god. I hated him for letting me get this way. For leaving me alone through these struggles. For not answering me after I pray sometimes until the early morning hours. I told him I wished he'd kill me so I could go to hell because I thought even hell would be better than what I was going through on earth. I had to put on my mask every morning and looking like the perfect Christian kid even though I was private about my faith because I hadn't been baptized. But I still didn't feel god. I didn't think he was there. I was shaking with anger. I said some terrible things to god and finally I just told him I was going to sleep, it was past midnight by now, and that if he really cared about me he wouldn't make me wake up. I told him to kill me and send me to hell. I tried to sleep but I couldn't. I started feeling bad for what id done. I still hadn't gotten any answers but i had moved past the anger and was now just sad and guilty. I sat up in my bed and just cried until I looked onto my nightstand and saw my bible sitting there. I don't know why but I grabbed it and just flipped to random pages and something caught my eye. For some reason it opened to job 40. In previous chapters job had been angry at god similarly to the way I was and what Caught my eye was gods response. " I am the LORD All-Powerful, but you have argued that I am wrong. Now you must answer me." Here I had just screamed at God for not answering me and not being with me. And here he goes, giving me an answer. And harsh one at that. I just broke down crying and continued reading and thanking him and apologizing. I loved God more right then than any moment in my entire life. I stayed awake for almost another hour reading, and praying, and studying. I ended up meditating on Jeremiah 29:13- "you will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." I was struggling to find God and being angry at him because I couldn't and he says "listen to me and answer me now" and when I do he tells me to "seek him with all my heart". That sounds great but how do I do that. Then I figured, you can't seek God with all your heart if your heart is stained with sin and lusts. I needed to purify my heart to find God. I ended going to sleep peacefully that night. One of the worst nights of my life, turned into the greatest by the grace of God.

I wish I could say I've been a great Christian ever since but I'm still trying to break my addiction and still on my journey to purify my heart. But now I know even at my lowest points, even if I can't feel him, God is always there.

Tyler

Kenneth's Testimony



I used to be a person of the world, wallowing in the pleasures and desires of the flesh and laziness. I would sleep with my girlfriend, masturbated just to pass time, watched pornography, engaged in sexual talks with others, flirted with other women, lusted after many others, bought sex toys, over ate, and cursed like a sailor; (whilst calling myself an adult). I was obsessed with the sex, like it was a drug or something (lust) and I was also always wondering if someone wanted my girlfriend and became enraged. (envy). I also didn't much care for the scripture at all (I was afraid that it'd cause me to stop sex). I talked my girlfriend out of her walk towards Christ for that very reason. As a result, she started loving me more than God. Heck, I had my beautiful girlfriend who I planned on marrying (6 year relationship), I didn't have to worry about rent and became arrogant/filled with pride, was abusive to the special needs kids at my job for fun (wrath), had friends who were almost as bad as me, and was satisfied to let others do for me. I became content and stagnant; no longer seeking more out of life or putting forth any effort to go places (sloth). I was just some over weight sinner (gluttony). I was arrogant and proud (pride).

Then, it all happened in 2011. My past brain tumor grew back (the doctor said, "if you don't get it operated on, you WILL die.") That's pretty scary coming from your doctor)., the surgery was a success but my life was again threatened with my head pumping out too much CSF (google it). So, I had another surgery to put a shunt in. That shunt failed, so another was installed. I had radiation treatments (30}. got fired from the hotel I worked in, and I got fired from a school I worked at later in the year, Then, the truly crippling thing happened. I came down with radiation side effects which caused swelling in my brain and a loss of some cognition (balance, memory, nystagmus in eyes, left eye stuck staring left, drooling, slurring speech like my mouth was full, could not swallow food so it came out through my nose, could not get an erection, double breathing at times, mild hallucinations of a bright light behind my eyes that shined, and feeling like my eyes were moving around my face) On top of that, I lost all of my friends, but not my girlfriend. No one else could understand me when I talked, but she could. That is still so precious to me. Sadly, she broke up with me from being stressed out at my condition (I believe this to be a lie and she broke up because she was "setting me free"). Ultimatly,she told me goodbye when I explained that my love for her will never die. I was upset. I was depressed and hurt. I tried to accept the fact that she was gone, but then I felt something. I loved her, that went without saying, but what I felt was a love that was more powerful than anything ever (a love that makes you do anything for that other person regardless of you or what happens), true love. I knew that she is the one.

I was lost. I didn't understand what happened. Here I was, happy and on top. Now, I was this broken and disabled guy. It was sad. I wondered why God had this happen? Why was I being punished? I thought that he hated me. I started going to church for guidance, looking for some solution. I needed to know "Why was this happening to me?" Shortly after that, I made a decision to get my own bible, understanding that God hates no one, and things happen for a reason. About a day after I had it, my speech improved a little.

I read passages, scriptures, verses, and started living a more Christian lifestyle, meanwhile slowly getting back my physical traits that were gone (speech nearly returned to normal, balance has gotten much better, and everything else is recovering). I joined a church in my neighborhood, and look forward to Sunday service. Meanwhile, I read my bible daily, no longer cuss, don't masturbate (nearly for 2 years so far), I've lost 60 pounds, attend college, and am I great man of faith.

Now, all that remains is her. I am waiting on her to come back. God told me to just wait, to "Stay" and endure my situation. I've had visions and signs from God that point to her return to my life. So with faith, I'll wait for her. I still love her very much after all, and I can say that with a big smile. I may have lost all my friends, I may be in a home situation that I'm not pleased with right now, but I have faith and hope that it will get better.

Janine's Testimony: Salvation, Falling Away, and Recovery



I got saved at the age of 12. Not by a prayer that I had to say. I got saved while I was reading a Christian book my grandma told me to read. Before the person reads the book the author prays over the person in the book and asks God to let those that are blind see. It happened to me. After a some months though I wasn't on watch and I fell astray. It was a very dark moment in my life. My addictions that God set me free from came back and worst. I was watching porn, masturbating, all the resentment that God freed me from came back. I wasn't doing good in school and i started losing friends. I started drinking and smoking weed trying to fit in. I was constantly going to court with my mom. I also started getting panic and anxiety attacks. I hit rock bottom.

"But God." He cared about me still after I back slide from Him. He brought me back and made me repent. I wanna give hope to those that might have back- slid from God also. He will accept you again. I'm not going to lie. It will be hard coming back to God. You might feel dry but if you hang on to Jesus eventually in time if you continually seek Him and faint not the relationship, and the joy of salvation and fellowship with Jesus Christ will come back! I'm a witness of it and God has taken me to places I never dreamed of! Hallelujah!

Janine

Terri's Testimony: Finding Truth Outside of Roman Catholicism



I was raised Catholic, parochial school, (5 brothers- 1 sister), had a good education, taught by nuns as you may have heard, quite strict, but learned a lot. Priest came in once a week to teach Catechism, but never did I hear about salvation all those yrs. Then I knew about Jesus, but didn't know Him as my Savior until 1971, by then I was an adult. Nothing seemed to change in the church, same things were said which was nothing to do with the Bible, of which we were told not to read, nor listen to anyone on the radio (then) or the TV, had to listen and believe what they told us and of course, the Pope. This went on for a lot of yrs; the not knowing, I was married in the Church, had three children. We did attend church, but again, nothing. They went to CCD classes when asked what they learned about Jesus; not much, either colored or played games. So I stopped taking them and taught them myself. We were going to a church but again, not getting anything new.

My blessed day was when I started to go to my friend, she had a hair salon in her basement. Several ladies would come with their Bibles. After a while, she invited me to a Bible Study and I said "no." I thought I knew a lot, as any Catholic would think, but found out I knew nothing. The saying is that "Catholics are the hardest nuts to crack," I was one of them. I did start going once a week, learning every time, and enjoyed them so much. I looked forward to them each week. I was not reading the Word exactly as we were told not to, instead I would stay up until the early am hours reading starting with the Old Testament. Then I was invited to her church, Assembly of God. What a difference! The people were so friendly, shook hands and even hugs, you didn't see that in the other

Church and the singing was something else. I had never heard those songs and took it all in – the praise and worship as never before. So my children and I looked fwd to going, they got involved with the classes, were so happy too for the change, it changed our living.

After a while, the minister asked me to teach Sunday school, told him I didn't know enough of God's Word, said I would learn from teaching the children. I did and taught there for 5 years, but then due to the business we moved to a different state. Of course by then I had gone to a Bible study previous to all that accepted the Lord as my Savior and felt so clean, as though I had gone through a wringer washing machine and from then on it was wonderful to know more about who Jesus was, and He is more than we think He is! The children had also accepted the Lord, my husband too, but he fell away after a few years and started living a not so good life. He died in the early 1980's and was only in his late 40's. So after that my two children were married, one girl at home. But I was not provided for so I went back to work where the Lord blessed me. I will not share much about that it wasn't easy, but can I say that the Lord brought me through it all. I did struggle but knew He was there for me all the way.

I had left the Catholic church in 1972 and had a whole new life and am still going. When we moved to a different state we attended another Assembly of God church, again taught Sunday School for another 5 years. Myself and my older girl attended Bible School for 2 years and loved it. I learned more and was quite happy. She graduated in 1981, I did in 1982, and the blessing there too was the pastor took a group of church people, plus I was as happy to go too, we went to Israel. What a glorious trip, from Dan to Beersheba, went everywhere the Lord was. It is a place you never ever forget where you had been and what you saw. It has been a while, but seems like only yesterday.

Now I am attending a wonderful church and it is great, the praise and worship is wonderful. So that is my testimony, but a lot more "in-between" things; as I said shared all this with a certain Catholic friend, praying that he will think about how he can serve the the Lord. I pray for him daily, to open his heart and mind and come to the Lord, give up that way of life, which is not God's way as we know. He is the only way…so I know that God has heard our prayers, is in control, up to him to follow through and serve the Lord in a better way instead. Of all that church stuff which doesn't mean a thing.

I realize my testimony is long, but could not share only a little.Thanks again, Lord Bless.

Testimony of Steve Homola formerly of

Decatur Michigan from Prison



I was married at the age of 15, divorced at the age of 18, with two beautiful daughters. I was a self-employed carpenter since the age of 15 and owned my own renovation business. Both my daughters lived with me at my mom's since the age of 11, and I would say we had a good relationship. I was into drugs, smoking, gambling, and pornography since the age of 13, this is not all I was into but for space I am going to use this now. The older I got the more drugs I did and the deeper I fell into pornography. It was not long before I was doing everything and anything to get high on. I became so obsessed with pornography that I was spending hundreds of dollars a week on it. My obsession for this kind of behavior was fueled by my drug use, and the drugs gave me the courage to do things I would not do if I was sober.

As I look back now I was living in a fantasy world, and because of this behavior I am now serving a 37 to 70 year prison sentence, and have now been incarcerated for the past 20 years in a Michigan State Prison.

I was in the Van Buren County Jail awaiting trial for 14 months on the crime I am now serving time for. I was on 24 hour suicide watch for most of that time for making threats on my life. I no longer desired to go on living at that time. My lawyers kept telling me that the best deal they could get me was 20 to 40 years in prison for a crime I did not think deserved that much time. This had me in a deep depression, and I was having deep withdrawals from all the drugs I had been using. The chaplain from Forgotten Man Ministries would visit the jail once a week and would try to get me to

read the Bible and attend the service they held in the lobby, but I would always tell him that Christianity was not for me, but on December 31, 1993, the chaplain and a friend came to my cell and invited me to the midnight service they were having that night. I felt that tug in my heart so I attended. (John 15:16).

This was the greatest day of my life that has changed the way I think and look at life. The pastor that was speaking that night spoke on putting your hope and trust in God and that no matter what man says, God has the final say so. This had to be what I need to hear and was looking for. That was the night I gave my life to the Lord and have been faithfully seeking Him with all my heart since daily through His word, in prayer and studying of His word and serving Him where ever I can. Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 2:1-3, Psalm 37:5-6, Colossians 1:21-23.

Since I have made God the Lord of my life, my life has changed dramatically. I now look at life so much differently now. I no longer take thing for granted anymore. It's not about me anymore. The Lord has delivered me from smoking, a foul mouth, gambling, drugs, pornography and so much more. He has filled me with His Love and compassion in my heart towards all people, even people that I should be at war with in here. Being in a controlled environment, I cannot just get up and walk away from issues that arise. I have learned to trust in Him and use His word to guide me. (Psalm 119:105) I have grown in my relationship with the Lord through correspondence courses since the day I accepted Jesus into my heart. Every day since I gave my life to the Lord I have been seeking Him daily in prayer and His word. I am thankful for being alive and set free spiritually even in prison. Thank You Jesus!! God has worked miracles in my life for healing many injuries over the years according to His word in 1 Peter 2:24, Isaiah 53:4-5, and Jeremiah 30:17. God continues to pour out His blessings and goodness in my life as I continue to grow in my relationship with him. Thank You Jesus for saving me!

Note from the Editor: As of this posting (June 2013) Steve was incarcarated at the Chippewa Correctional Facility in Kincheloe, Michigan. He can be reached by email at jpay.com, search for Steve Homola. His ID number is #19041.

Arynn: The Diary of a Young Christian



I gave my life to Christ at the age of 7, and at that moment I would never fathom the paths life would lead me down, and how that would affect my life with Christ. At that time I was shrouded in an innocence that comes with being 7.

I could have even called my life "perfect" until the age of 17. As a junior in high school I thought Id found the love of my life and I gave him everything I had, including my virginity. Now us all being Christians we know sex before marriage goes on the list of "no no's" and especially being a young Christian girl growing up in a house of devout Christians I was supposed to know better. So this became an even bigger "uh oh" in my eyes. Somewhere the line between love and lust became dangerously crossed and I committed what I consider my first major sin against God. Now we know there is no sin bigger then the next, but I was a girl who had gone through life playing by the rules with barely an ounce of rebellion in my body. I had put myself on a pedestal and idolized myself as the ultimate picture of perfection. I was the perfect teenager until I came tumbling off my pedestal and landed on the harsh cold ground of reality. I looked around and realized I was better than no one else, and for the first time I saw myself through God's eyes as a sinner. For the next three years I inflicted my self with spiritual fasting making endless promises to God to never mess up again. Each time I would feel better as if I somehow restored my own sense of perfection, to only fall short and begin the tumultuous cycle all over again. As I entered college things only seemed to worsen spiritual for me. I was having a spiritual identity crisis and I felt so separated from God. I felt like I hadn't heard God's voice in ages. I thought that that he abandoned me in one area of my life, but still made his appearance in other parts of my life. It took me all the way until second semester freshman year to stop trying to fix everything or recreating perfection and instead surrendering myself to God. My pastor once told me that God will use your sin and work your consequences back into his will. For some reason I only saw that on a macro scale at first, like for girls who got pregnant and their pregnancy was the consequence, and their baby the blessing of Gods life and creation. Once again I

was wrong it works on all levels. My spiritual torture and facing the music of my own sinful nature was my consequence, but also my blessing. It was only in the aftermath of that storm that I was able to accept my role in the relationship between God and myself. I finally saw God for the all controlling, powerful, loving and mostly FORGIVING God he is. I saw God's strength, warmth, and gentleness, and I experienced it. Once I let go of my own sense of perfection, pride, and need to play god I could finally experience him. I stood in my own way and blocked myself from Gods grace and loving relationship.

I'm telling this story because we all often feel abandoned by God as youth especially when we are trying to traverse everything life is throwing at us. But once we stop focusing on the roadblocks and our own short comings and look up at the God who wants to so desperately help us through these moments, I promise your spirit will get 8000 times lighter. He wants to be our father and best friend so open yourself up and let him. Leave your comfort zone and grasp onto his hand and he will lead through ever moment or misstep you'll encounter in the future.

I am no way a perfect Patty now, I still have things I struggle with but now I have a budding relationship with my closest friend God to help. I don't want to ever be perfect again if that means I would lose what I have with God now. God never said a walk with him would be easy, but he did promise it would be worth it. Every obstacle, struggle, and moment is worth it for me. And as I continue to fumble my way through young adulthood and the rest of my life ill have the steady grip of God to hold my hand. My name is Arynn and this is my testimony.

Liz's Testimony: Difficult Childhood and Thoughts of Suicide turned to Jesus Christ



I once heard someone say when someone is anointed, chosen to do good things the attacks for that person start early. I believe that's where my testimony begins. Starting from a young age the devil tried to break me, to destroy my hope in the people around me or take away my dreams of bringing peace and being a light that would shine bright. He started with love, love was never something that came easy to me. I couldn't really find it in those around me. I was born into a chaotic point in my parents relationship and although I knew they loved me the devil took away their ability to express it to me or to show me what it means. At the age of 2 my parents divorced and I had to learn quickly how to take care of myself, at the age of 9 I was a mother to my brother and taught myself to cook to provide food on the table. I spent a lot of time alone, the devil whispered in my ear often, trying to convince me that I was unloveable, that I was just here, nothing special, nothing great, not worth much. As I got older I struggled a lot with depression. In front of friends or family I seemed fine, happy, strong, normal. Inside I hurt, my heart was always broken. I became very hardend and cold inside but there was always that piece of my heart that just wanted to give anyone and everyone some sort of peace, someone to reach out to when they felt no one else cared or understood. I became the go to person to talk to and confide in but the bitterness inside me never let me forget that I couldn't be that person who received peace or was worthy of compassion from others. At the age of 12 I experienced first hand just how dark evil can be. I was put into a situation that changed my life, that drew me deeper into darkness. Rumors were spread and I remember people talking every where I'd go, the looks, the stares, phone calls with threats on my life or to harm me in some way, I was left to deal with those things on my own. The devil had me right where he wanted me and I was to young to even notice the path I was about to travel. At the age of 13 I considered suicide. I became sucked into the numbness and emptiness in the shadows of those who walk around completely lost and confused. I had a lot of why me moments, those why be here moments, those undeserving of life moments. I resented God, I felt abandoned and forgotten.

My loneliness began to change when I met my husband. I was 16 and head over heels with the idea of love and having someone by my side, finally a glimpse of light. We were young and he was never fully ready to commit to a relationship and I chose to turn the other cheek a lot in our relationship and ignore things because I wanted to be loved, to just have one person tell me I'm worth it. He joined the army and we always talked about marriage, you see even though we had our struggles I knew he was it for me, he had my heart and he would have it forever. We grew apart while he was gone, he got into things that distracted him from our relationship and when things got bad they got horrible. I remember being 19, at that point my dad became a preacher, and for the first time going to my dad and completely breaking down, letting go of everything. I'll never forget the first words he said to me, sissy girl it was never your fault, you've been let down by a lot of people but it was never your fault. My dad became my rock that day and after Josh and I got married and things got the worst they've ever been I sunk into the darkest deepest depression you could imagine but my dad always pulled me through.

I began to turn to drugs to release my pain, to erase that pit i was surrounded by, to try to find that place we all want which it to just know you have a place to lay your head and have peace. There were days I couldn't even get out of bed, I felt defeated. Every time I saw my dad I could see the worry in his eyes, the fear that he was gonna lose his baby girl. I was ashamed of who I became and I knew he could see it, I knew he could see the desperation in my eyes. One day he sat me down and he just held me while I cried for what seemed like hours and when I calmed down he looked at me and he said sissy girl I know you don't see it but you're special, you've been given these burdens for a reason and Gods gonna use you to do big things. At the time I thought to myself you're wrong, that's just not ever gonna be me. I went home and I sat down with my bible and I began to think about my dad, all the things he's overcome to be the most amazing and incredible father, preacher and Christian I've ever known. His faith is so inspirational to me, it's unshackled, undeniable and so special. I thought to myself I want that, I want to be completely emersed in the spirit, to always walk with The Lord right beside me. My mind was spinning with all of my struggles, all my pain, and it clicked for me. I thought to myself thank you God for seeing me as worthy of knowing this pain so I can be the light to all of those who are lost and carry that pain I've carried. Thank you God for seeing me through it, there are times I should've been dead, thank you God for protecting me through it all, for ignoring my cries and pleads to take me away and ending it all. I was finally ready to be my Heavenly Fathers daughter, ready to embrace my responsibility to stand up and be strong through the salvation of Christ we are all given. He took my addictions, he gave me love, and he filled all the lonely broken places in my heart and my soul. He took my husband and he made him new, my God gave me the strength to always forgive, even when I was lost I always heard the lords voice whisper to me Liz don't you give up on him, watch how I will bless him, watch how I will change him, watch how I will reward you with the husband you deserve, his grace provided, his mercy overcame, his love won. I stand before you now blessed, stronger in my faith and focused on my purpose of being a strong voice for those who are lost and need compassion, direction and not be afraid of judgement. My husband is who he was always meant to be growing in faith every day. My future is bright and full of amazing experiences that I can't wait to have. The Lords spirit is in me, he

saved me and with him I can do anything. He conquered my demons and gave me light. He over powered every time the devil tried to shut my mouth and quiet the strength in my voice. **My name is Liz and I will forever be a child of God.**