

TESTIMONY

I do want to give thanks and praise unto Almighty God for his saving grace in my own heart and life. All that I am and hope to be I owe to Him. I was brought up in a home where from earliest days I was taught the way of mercy and salvation. Thank God for a godly grandmother who lived with us and taught us by word and deed the way of salvation. For parents even though my Father when I was young was not a Christian who took us along to various different Gospel Meetings.

From a child I knew that I needed to be saved. And that it was through the work of the Lord Jesus Christ alone I could be saved. However it was not until I was sixteen years of age as a young teenager that I personally closed in with Christ. There were various different circumstances which lead me to start attending a series of Gospel Meetings close to home.

God had been at work in our family circle and had been at work in my own life also. I remember going to what I thought was the last Sunday night of a special series of gospel meetings, only to learn whilst there that they had extended them for another week! The preacher spoke on the words of Rom. 10 v 13:

“whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

It was a simple and direct Gospel Message which the Lord applied to my own heart that evening. The invitation was given if anyone wanted to talk with the preacher to wait behind but I slipped out of the meeting and went home.

However God still strove on with my heart. Before I went to bed that evening I took down my Bible and started to read. I opened at Acts One and started to read down the chapter. It seemed there was nothing in it for me but I read on into chapter two and came to verse twenty-one. I was startled to read:

“it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The message was the same, what I had to do was plain. With the Word of God open I knelt before God and from my heart I called upon the Lord to save me and make me His child.

It was a simple step of faith yet a life changing one. A step which I would urge all who are not saved if you are reading this testimony to take even now wherever you are. Repent of your sin, and receive into your life the salvation of God.

I am glad that when the Lord does save someone He makes all things new. After getting involved in my home church in Banbridge and being given various opportunities for service I felt led into God’s work through John 20 v 21.

“...as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you”.

Over the past twenty-nine years since entering into Bible College the Lord has sent me to different places to preach His Word and serve Him. I thank God for the call which came from the Lord via the local congregation in Carrickfergus in 1985 to serve him there after completion of my theological studies. My previous two years as a Student Minister in Antrim had been good preparation for taking on this pioneer work. Together as a family we

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spent some twelve and a half years in Carrickfergus. They were challenging but blessed times of seeing the work of God grow and advance in that most ancient borough and town.

In 1997 we went out to Kitale in Western Kenya at the call of God and there spent eight very happy years working under the auspices of our Mission Board in helping to serve the Lord in the Bible Christian Faith Church. They were years when we were stretched to what we felt was the limit but they also included some of the greatest highlights in our service for God. New doors were opened for the Gospel and new ground taken for God's kingdom.

In July 2005 due to family circumstances we returned back to N. Ireland. God was at work preparing the way back and a call came from our congregation in Annalong to be their Minister. After due prayer and ascertaining the will of God I accepted this call and took up the charge of the congregation in November 2005. My four years in the congregation have flown. I thank God for His help and encouragements in the work and look to Him for greater advancements in the days ahead.

I was humbled in 2009 to take on the work of the Presidency of the Youth Council. It is a very grand title but behind it is the faithful members of the Youth Council Committee and the Delegates from our Congregations who make it all work and pull together. The work has been a real blessing and it is a tremendous challenge to see further new doors of service opening personally and collectively for the youth of the Free Presbyterian Church.

I am glad that God did not send me alone. I thank God for my wife Linda and our four children, Lydia, Joanna Benjamin and Joseph. **Wherever I was sent I'm afraid they have had to follow!** I believe in all of the moving which oftentimes comes with the Lord's service the ministers family are the unsung heroes. So to all of the unsung heroes in my own family who have put up with all my moving around and have supported me in the ministry over the years I put on record my own debt of love and gratitude.

I value the prayer of all of the Youth in our Churches for the ministry which God has called us to, that in all things He might have the pre-eminence. These are exciting and challenging days for the work of the Youth in the Free Presbyterian Church. What a blessing to be called to reach the Youth of our generation with the message of redeeming grace.

With the great Apostle Paul I say –

Eph 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

AMEN