

Testimony

Nicky Allen Tells His Story

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The apostle John records in Revelation 12:11, ‘And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony’. It is by God’s amazing grace that I can write these few words of testimony.

I was born on 31 July 1973 in the city of London, and there with my parents we lived for a few years before returning to Ballymena. From the age of five I was faithfully sent along to Sunday school, children’s meetings and church services. I attended the local Congregational and Gospel Hall meetings, learning and enjoying the children’s stories, Bible verses and choruses. When I think of this, I see God’s hand on my life for the first time, as my father did not attend any church and my mother attended mass with my grandparents. Around the age of eleven I had a faithful old Sunday school teacher, Jack M’Cready, who took great care in explaining my need of salvation, the message of Calvary, and also what would happen to me if I neglected God’s dear Son.



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As I came to my teenage years, however, rebellion and sin had their grip on me, and the world held much attraction. In Isaiah 53:6 we read, ‘All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way’. I got into trouble at school; I joined one of the local flute bands and was exposed to all that went with being in a band – the bars and nightclubs. At the age of eighteen I had no job and no direction in life. Then I met a girl who became my loving wife, and when we had a baby boy, my life had to change. I found full-time employment in Dale Farm dairies, and I thought my life had taken a turn for the better.

While on holiday in September 2008, however, I was standing on the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, supposedly enjoying myself. Suddenly my thoughts were turned to remembering what my old Sunday school teacher had taught me and saying to myself, Here you are and you’re still not saved. The words of 2 Timothy 3:15 say, ‘And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus’.

I continued with this sense of sadness on my return from holiday. At work we had a radio in the office, and on a Sunday I heard a programme called ‘Let the Bible Speak’. This helped to intensify what I knew as a child and the thought of what would happen to me without a Saviour. It affected me so much that I would turn the radio off or the volume down in my car when the advertisement of LTBS would come on; just the introductory music being played was enough to convict me.

By February 2009 the conviction of sin was keeping me from sleeping. All I could see and remember was my sinful past. I was exhausted by this load of sin I was carrying. I didn’t know which way to turn; all I knew was I wanted the promise of heaven and my sins forgiven. On Thursday the 12th of February, when I walked into the factory, the first person I bumped into was a Christian. I remembered his brother was saved and also an old friend I could talk to, so David arranged for me to meet Tom Laverty.

I arrived that Friday afternoon at his house, knowing nothing of Tom’s connection with the Ballymena church or Rev. Greer’s ministry on the radio. I explained how I was feeling, and Tom told me what I already knew, that I needed to be saved. The voice of the Liar was telling me, How could I be saved or become a Christian? What about this sin and that sin? Little did I know this was the battle of the devil not letting go of one of his own! But the Bible tells us that the Son of God came that He might destroy the works of the devil, and also that Jesus came to seek and to save that which is lost. That Friday afternoon, 13 February 2009, I went into Rev. Tom Laverty’s home a sinner lost and exhausted with the load of sin, and I left that evening having called upon the name of the Lord with tears of joy, freed from the bondage of darkness and delivered into the kingdom of light.

I can now tell you how the Lord further transformed my home six months later, when I had the joy of seeing my wife being led to the Lord by Rev. Greer after a Sunday evening gospel service. I have also had the privilege of serving the Lord in the open air in our own town, in the Republic of Ireland and in the UK mainland along with Christ's servant Rev. Tom Laverty.

May the Lord have all the glory in these few words of testimony.

. . . . Gleaned from LTBS Quarterly - October 2008