

# JANICE'S TESTIMONY



My name is Janice Walker, and I would like to tell you how I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal saviour. We were not raised in a Christian home although my parents loved us and did the best they could, but God was never mentioned.

My mother was very unhappy and my father was an alcoholic but a quiet and lovely man. When I started school we were sent to the Penshurst Methodist Sunday school. We were taught about the Lord Jesus, but I mainly remember each year we would have a Sunday school anniversary, and the children would stay for the message. I remember being captured by the message, and I would walk home excited, and purposing in my heart to be better. But of course trying in my own strength. By the afternoon I would have slipped back into my own sinful way and I would give up.

I left school at 16 and became an apprentice hairdresser in King Street, Sydney. It had a huge staff and there I made all the wrong choices, was easily led, and went out into the world. Our home life was dreadful and I went with the crowd. I learnt to smoke and fell into sin. I searched in every place I could find for happiness. My life was empty. I heard my boss say one day, "You girls are looking for Utopia." I didn't understand till years later that Utopia does not exist. He wasn't a Christian but he knew the world had nothing to offer but grief.

I went to a Billy Graham crusade in my teens and I went forward with the invitation. I am sure I was convicted but maybe it was just based on feelings. I wanted what they seemed to have, but didn't know how to get it. Perhaps because there was no follow up the seed just died and didn't take root.

I married in my early twenties but it didn't last very long, so I just continued on making bad choices and living a sinful life.

My father went into a nursing home as a result of alcohol and cigarettes. He died after a few years. I had remarried and was pregnant with my daughter when he died.

In 1983 I met a girl at a fitness place in Liverpool her name was Rita Riddikas. Rita would talk to me about the Lord and give me literature to read. A few weeks later she rang me and told me to throw away everything she had given me as she had misled me. The church she was attending had a bomb planted in it. It

exploded and some people were hurt, but Rita ended up in the Sydney Eye Hospital. Her husband rang the Truth Bookshop at the time ,and they sent a man to see her. This name was Keith Piper. He showed her through God's Word God's plan of Salvation and led her to the Lord.

I met with Keith Piper and he showed me with the scripture John 3.16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life," - that Jesus died on the cross for my sin ,was buried and rose on the third day. I learned I was a sinner in God's sight and that God could not look on sin; that I needed to believe on the Lord Jesus, needed to be truly sorry for my sin and be willing to repent of my sin and turn from it. I needed to ask him to forgive me, and thank Him for dying on the cross in my place. I needed to ask Him to come into my heart and take me to heaven when I die. He told me that I could be assured of eternal life. I knew what I really was and that day I asked the Lord Jesus to forgive me of my sin come into my heart, and give me eternal life.

I was a new creature in Christ and I was saved. I went home and told my mother-in-law and husband; I was very excited. They didn't understand.

Keith gave me Psalm

"O taste and see that the Lord is Good." He said you won't grow if you don't find a Bible believing church. He sent me to Southern Cross Baptist Church. I went everywhere searching for it but finally found it. I loved the church and the preaching; I learnt so much from God's word and I am so thankful to Him for never giving up on me. I was saved but still failed Him so often.

I was baptized on a freezing July day in 1989 in obedience to God's word. We moved to Coffs Harbour in 1990 and my children and I started to attend the Coffs Harbour Bible Church. We were there for 8 years. We had so many problems in our life over those years; stress of money and my husband being unsaved. I needed to be in God's Word more but I wasn't. I loved the Bible church. It was wonderful, but still my life wasn't right.

We moved to Newcastle in 2000 for the soccer for my son.

Each week or so I would go to a new church but they were so different to what I had known. Sometimes I wondered if I had missed the message. I used to tell my children we have had such good teaching from God's word. I became lazy over the years and stayed in churches. Because it was easy to stay. I wandered for years just like the children of Israel. I got off track and wasn't feeding on God's

word as I should and I hated how I was. To the world you are fine, but I knew I was just treading water in my Christian life.

I was attending my neighbour's church and was looking on-line for a church I saw in Lambton but it had no website. I didn't know of Grace Bible Baptist, it just came when I was looking on-line. It had to be of the Lord; I didn't even know what I was doing. I am not very good on the computer. I was excited and sent the link to my daughter. She had found out as well and was going to tell me. I sat in my car outside the first night I came here and almost felt the pull to go home, but I knew I needed to stay. I just knew this is where I need to be. In the short time I had been here I told Pastor Charlie I have learnt more than in all those years in Newcastle. I went to my neighbour the next day and said, "I can't come to your church anymore."

God has been so patient with me over these years I have wasted but I am so thankful to Him for bringing me here. God has removed things in my life that have plagued me and pulled me down during my Christian life. I know I have such a long way to go but I know there is no good thing in me and I can't do anything without Him. I just want to do right and serve Him as best I can.