



## MARIUS' TESTIMONY

I was born and grew up in South Africa. I grew up in a Christian family. My parents read their Bibles and prayed every night before they went to sleep. As children, we were taught to do the same and we also went to church on Sundays. We attended different churches – mostly charismatic and Dutch Reformed.

I got married in 1996. About 10 years later I started looking for work in Australia. I applied for many jobs all over Australia with no success. Then I received a phone call from a company in Newcastle and got offered a job after having had only a very short, basic interview, so I do believe that I was meant to come to Newcastle. We came to Newcastle 4 ½ years ago and started looking for a church. In 2010 I started attending Port Stephens Baptist Church, a very small church in Salamander Bay. I just knew that this was the right church for my family. We were taught the true gospel and not just what we wanted to hear, but what we needed to hear. It was all good, but I still had this uncertainty and feeling of emptiness in my life. I was never 100% sure if I was saved or not. Our Pastor had to go back to America so he introduced us to Pastor Charlie in January 2013, as we wanted to continue attending the same kind of Baptist church. Pastor Charlie offered to do Bible study for us in Salamander Bay.

That is a big blessing for us as he travels all the way every week. In the Bible study about baptism, I started to realise I needed to get saved. I then asked Pastor Charlie for help with this matter and he gladly organised a meeting.

After a really long discussion things started getting clearer and I realised that it was not just about the way we live or the good things we do that save us. I started putting my trust in the Lord but still struggled. On Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2013 about 05:30 in the morning I went down on my knees and prayed and trusted in the Lord, and I know I got saved that morning. Now it is so much easier to give up things that used to be very hard in the past. I also don't worry so easily anymore. The Lord is very good to me and I am so grateful for his grace and love every day.