



Hi, my name is Doriela Acosta, I was born in 1985 in Venezuela, South America. I was brought up by great bible believing parents who attended church regularly, they loved and nurtured my siblings and I with good principles and values. When I was two and a half my family made a big move and came to Australia to live, this was a huge change for them from being in a Spanish country to coming to a multicultural Land. The one thing that didn't change was my family's faith and love for God so we were eager to find a church, we attended a few different churches but soon found one close to home where we stayed for many years, it was there I would soon realize the biggest need for my life.

When I was young I always attended church so I knew about God and a lot of the bible stories from Sunday school, I knew God existed and understood that he loved me. In general, I was a good kid (I think) although I did do wrong things and got up to mischief, but I had good parents who reared me pretty well and disciplined me when I did wrong. We went camping a lot and went on outings every now and then so my childhood was filled with happiness. I also have very fond memories of my dad sitting down with my siblings and I reading to us a bible story nightly.

When I was about twelve or thirteen I can't quite remember, I started to go to the youth group that they had at the church I was attending, I really enjoyed it, and was eager for Fridays to come. It was on one Friday night that my whole life would change. For a few weeks before that faithful night I had been reading different pamphlets that I'd pick up from a stand at our church and slowly I started feeling the need to know more what Jesus did for me and about life after death. Little did I know, God was preparing my heart for what would soon take place. I sat in the church with the rest of the young people watching a movie called "A thief in the night" One movie of a series about events in the book of Revelations. It was telling about the 'Rapture' what the bible calls being 'caught up' like a "thief in the night" how Christ would come to the earth one day and take all the people who have accepted him as their personal savior to heaven. I felt that If Jesus did return, I wasn't ready, I would be left behind because I had finally understood and realized that if I were to die that night a sinner and without Christ as my saviour, my eternal destination would be hell.

That night the Pastor gave a small devotion and invitation to ask Jesus to save you, I was too shy to tell him that I wanted to be saved. When I got home that night though, I sat on my bed and read a tract that said on the front in big bold letters, BELIEVE, ASK, RECEIVE. I thought to myself I have to be certain about how to ask Jesus to save me so I read the tract for the last time. I read it, and I knew what I had to do, Believe in Jesus, ask God to forgive me from my sins, and then receive the Lord Jesus into my life. So right there and then sitting on my bed

I closed my eyes, bowed my head and in my own words I did just that!!! I remember after praying that I literally felt a huge load had lifted from my heart and soul! I knew without a doubt that my eternal destination would now be heaven. The next morning I was so happy I just had to tell my parents, I shared with them about the decision I had made. I am not quite sure how old I was or what year it was, I never wrote it down but I do know that I am eternally saved and that's all that really matters!

After I got saved I couldn't help but keep the wonderful news of Christ's Love and what he did on the cross for me to myself. At school I gave gospel tracts to my friends and challenged teachers when they would teach on evolution, I'd even ask the scripture teacher if I could share something with the class and ended up sharing the Gospel to the group which some gladly received. I got baptized and then became a Sunday school teacher. Even though I grew up in a Christian home I didn't have a true personal relationship and friendship with Jesus, I had no eternal security and it wasn't until I knew something was truly missing that I made the choice to let Christ be the missing piece to my life. I have been through some rough times But God has always been there for me. He has blessed me above and beyond what I would ever have known till this day. I am forever grateful to God for saving me! The best decision I have ever made is to accept him into my life. If you haven't yet made a decision to accept him as your personal savior, the bible says, "***And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment***" ***Hebrews 9:27***. Are you sure of your eternal destination? I hope and pray you make yours heaven

With Gods Love, Doriela