



Hi, my name is Doriela Acosta, I was born in 1985 in Venezuela, South America. I was brought up by good Godly parents who attended church regularly, who loved and nurtured my siblings and I with Godly 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 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, so I always knew that If I did something naughty I would be punished for my actions. I also have very fond memories of my dad sitting down with my siblings and I reading us a bible story every night, we also went camping a lot and went on outings every now and then so my childhood was filled with happiness and joy.

### ***“If I were to die that night, my eternal destination would be hell”***

When I was about twelve or thirteen I can't quite remember, I started to attend the weekly 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 tracts (little pamphlets about God) that I'd pick up from the tract stand at our church. Little did I know, the Lord 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” many people know of this movie. It was telling about the ‘Rapture’ what the bible calls being ‘caught up’ like a “thief in the night” how Christ would come and take all the people who have accepted him as their personal savior to heaven, I felt that the return of the Lord was at any moment and was moved by the movie I was seeing, I had finally understood that if I were to die that night without Christ, 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 I sat on my bunk bed at the top, I had a tract with me which said on the front in big bold letters, ASK, BELIEVE, RECEIVE. I thought to myself I have to be certain about this so I read the tract for the last time to help me understand better. I read it and I knew what I had to do, ask, believe 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 accepted the Lord as my Savior!!! I remember after praying that I literally felt a huge burden or load had lifted from me! I knew that now my eternal destination would be heaven 100%. The next morning I was so happy I just had to tell my parents, I ran to their room and shared with them about the decision I had made. I am not quite sure how old I was or what year I got saved, 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 always 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 it wasn't until I knew something was 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. The lord has truly blessed me above and beyond what I would ever have known till this day.

I am forever grateful to my Lord for saving my soul! The best decision I have ever made is to accept him into my life, God has been so good to me! If you haven't yet made a decision to accept him has 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.

In Christ, Doriela