

LADIES FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION

MY TESTIMONY

by Sandy Harber

I was raised in a Christian home. Both of my parents were Sunday School teachers. They took me to the Methodist Church every Sunday. At home, my dad read to me from the Bible and taught me all the Bible stories. I was taught to believe in God and His Word from the day I was born. I never doubted that Jesus was God's Son or that the Bible was one hundred percent true. Yet no one told me that I needed to have a personal relationship with Christ. No one ever asked me if I was saved.

When I was in sixth grade, I was allowed to join the church. To do this, I had to take a class. I don't remember much about the class. I guess they taught us some basic Christian doctrine. At the end of the course, we stood in front of the congregation and agreed to accept Jesus as Savior. Was I saved at that point? I'm not sure. I believed that Jesus was God's Son Who came to earth as a baby and died for my sins. I believed that He was raised from the dead. But, I was just doing what was necessary to join the church. So, I don't count this as my salvation experience.

Anyway, soon after that, my father took us out of the Methodist Church. I was really mad at him. I loved going to church. He took us to a new church. It was an independent fundamental church. Really, it was Baptist in everything but name. But what a difference! Instead of a Social Gospel, Rev. Woodring preached from the Bible. He made the plan of salvation clear and always gave an invitation at the end of the sermons. One Sunday, I walked the aisle and asked Jesus to come into my heart. I was thirteen.

I started going to church on Wednesday nights and Sunday nights. I studied the Bible using my father's Bible Handbook as a guide. I spent hours learning about Bible history and customs. I witnessed to my best friend. She started coming to church with me and she got saved, too. We were sixteen. After that we went to Youth for Christ meetings on Friday nights. And we joined the Bible Club at school. Pretty much, all of my activities centered around my faith. And most of my friends were Christians who attended my church or Bible Club. I prayed about everything.

I met Charlie at church one evening. His cousin, Roger, and I were good friends and we were both planning to go to Washington Bible College after graduation. Roger introduced me to Charlie. After that he started bringing Charlie along when we went places. I prayed for Charlie to be saved. On Easter Sunday I asked him if he wanted to go forward when the invitation was given and he said he already asked Jesus into his heart some years before. I felt like God had given me a gift.

I started teaching children when I was fifteen during Vacation Bible School. After high school, I went to Washington Bible College. Charlie and I got married in 1970, a week after he got out of the army. We moved to Pennsylvania from Maryland and found a good Bible believing church. We started teaching Sunday School as a couple. We've been involved in children's ministries nearly all our married life, over 50 years.