

## Personal Testimony...

This is my testimony of what God has done in my life. I thank God for everything He has done on my life. I don't have words to describe His love He has given in my life.

I was 3 years old when I lost my father. When I become 8 years old my mom lefts me and 2 of my siblings with my uncle and aunty. I was too young and don't know why she did that. My uncle and aunt didn't take care of us as they have their children too and their priorities to meet their needs. Life was so miserable in such a young age; due to financial problem both my elder sister and my younger brother left their school. At the age of 13 my sister started working (cleaning fish) and whatever money she used to earn, she gave to uncle and aunty that they can give us food. Many times, I slept without food. At the age of 12, I started working in an office, cleaning vessels and dusting. Whatever money I used to get I paid for my books, uniforms etc. Because I had a desire to continue my education, even my sister support me.

One day my sister received a marriage proposal and very next week she rejected. I asked her why you did this, she replied to me and said that if I'll get married then who will take care of you. She is still single and sacrifices her life for a better future. Didn't know what to do with life when you see no hope. Never understand what to do with this life. My uncle and aunt had a very small house (100 square feet), 16 people used to live in that house. Almost 18 years I slept on the street, borrowing someone's bed sheets, sleeping on the rough ground with thin bed sheets. I still get goose bumps whenever I remember those days, but I also thank God that He has changed my whole life.

At the age of 15, I came to know that my mom got married to someone. In our community any widow cannot marry anyone, it's a shameful thing for the family. My neighbors, friends, relatives, everyone started teasing me, started laughing on me. At that time, I was so frustrated and depressed that I planned to kill myself.

One day I was weeping at the same place where I used to sleep. I was seeing no hope, no money, no future and after some time I thought to finish my life. While I was crying, a fellow came to me and asked me about my problem. After listening to me he said, you have tried many gods, I used to keep fasting every Monday for one god and every Saturday to another god. He told me, why you don't try Jesus. He shared me a very little gospel and invited me to a nearby church; it was Thursday he told me. I thought for some time and talked to myself; let's see on Sunday if nothing changes then I can still kill myself.

In 1994 one Sunday morning when I entered the church, praise and worship going on, people were singing and praising God. I went inside and stood in the corner. After some time, I started crying, at the same time I saw the clear vision that Jesus came and gave me tight hug and said I am your father and mother and I will take care of you. I felt such supernatural power and felt that godly touch in my heart. That day I decided that I will follow Him.

Following Christ was not easy for me. I come from a very religious background. When my uncle and aunt came to know about me that I have started going to church, they told me if you want to stay here then stop going to church. They used to keep food in front of me and used to ask, do you want Jesus or food... I chose Jesus!! They started abusing me and wanted to throw me out from the house and community. At the age of 16, my whole community and family came against me, but God has touched my life and I was ready to pay anything to follow Him.

I started growing in Lord, reading Bible, the whole night I used to pray... wow what a day. I still do but a few hrs. My community and family member have seen some positive changes in my life. One day my uncle called me and said, no problem if you are going to church but please don't share your faith with others. I thought how can I keep quiet... The joy He has given to me, the salvation He has given to me, His sacrifice for sinners. How can I stop myself from sharing about Him?

I had bitterness for my mom and didn't want to forgive her for whatever she has done to us. One day God spoke to me, to get my mom and stay together. It was a tough decision for me because I have to face my community and many other people for what she has done. God spoke to me again as I have forgiven you, you have to forgive everyone. I told my sister, let's go and bring our mom and asked her to stay with us. We both went to her place where she used to live with my stepfather. I started crying when I saw my mother. I looked at her and said to her that I forgive you, please come and stay with us. After that, we started living together.

I felt very clear calling from God to reach my own people. I started sharing the gospel to my friend and community people. It was tough, many threatened to kill me, but I never stopped. He has called me and He makes the way.

As I was growing in Lord, I met a young lady that would later become my wife in the same church. She was my pastor's daughter (ha-ha...). I started liking her, one day I proposed to her and said that I want to marry you. After a month, she said yes. When she said yes, I asked her if I should talk to her mom and dad that I want to marry your daughter? She said, try. I took an appointment with her dad; he didn't know about it. I was sitting with him for almost an hour and finally asked; Pastor, I want to marry your daughter. He immediately replied "get lost" and don't even think about it. There were so many reasons for him to say no to me, like; my family background, poverty and

the biggest reason was he used to park his car at the same place where I used to sleep on the street. He told Rachael, you want to marry such a boy sleeping on a street and having nothing.

For 3 years we both stopped talking to each other, stopped facing each other because her dad had told her very clearly that you will not even think about me. After 3 years I wished her to have a good birthday, I told her that I am still praying for you. Are you? She said yes and said that she is praying for God's will to fulfill our life. I again asked her should I talk to your dad? She again said, try. This time I succeeded. When I spoke to her mom and dad, they said that God has changed our heart. We wanted to talk to you about the same. I praised God and we got married in 2001.

God called me to serve him. After marriage I used to get \$40 monthly support. This \$40 used to get over in 8-10 days. My wife was born and brought up in a luxurious lifestyle, where she used to ask one thing from her dad, he used to get 10 things for her; but after marriage, she had a very new experience. Now life became so miserable that now she had to adjust for everything she needed. But she stood with me in every situation of my life. After 8 months of marriage, I got serious sickness. My wife's mom and dad regretted that they let her marry with me. It was such a challenging time for me. I visited the doctor, after examination he told me that I can go under treatment that can cost approximately \$7000, I told to doctor I earn \$40 monthly, how this will be possible? My wife's mom and dad said that they will help with something and sell their car and house if needed.

I was depending on God. I had a very strong faith in Him and knew that He will provide everything for me, I also have my wife's love and care during that hard time. I was gone through the treatment and spent about \$30,000. I didn't ask for any money from anyone nor my wife's mom and dad so they didn't sold their car or house. God provided everything for me through unknown people from outside the church. I still don't understand how but He did. God gave me the scripture that time from Proverbs: 3: 1-10, yes favor from God and favor from people, God does continue with me, His favor which is so important for me and He allows people to bless my life.

Proverbs 3:1-10 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you. Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones. Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.

18 months I was under treatment, it was painful, full of sorrow but He has a great plan for me. God started blessing ministry during that time. He showed me that He is the only who can make the way for me and He did. I thank God for His great provision in my life. Even there were several financial challenges but God took care of everything.

I was working full time but I was appointed as a pastor in 2006 and started expanding work among my people and in other places.

I am passionate about making disciples who can disciple others, who disciples and carries compassion heart. By God grace, today we are working in 15 states in my country, having 1500 plus house churches, 26 Sunday churches. We are currently working with over 450 other Independent churches by providing them disciple-making resources, training them and standing with them to focus on our Lord's vision:

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."