

Stacy's Testimony

My family began attending church in the late '70s while we were in the process of building a new house. The builder invited us to his church, and we decided to go one weekend since we had nothing else to do. My mother was the first to get saved, and then she was able to lead my father to the Lord several months later. I made a profession of faith in July of 1979 at a Vacation Bible School and became very active in our church's youth group.

I attended Calvary Baptist Christian School from grades 7 through 12 and then went to Pensacola Christian College in the fall of 1987, where I majored in Business Administration and minored in accounting. I believed that I wanted to pursue a career in corporate business, but during my sophomore year, I changed my minor to Bible and felt that I was being led into Christian education. I met Jennifer in our freshman year through mutual acquaintances and began dating in our junior year.

Jennifer and I got married in August 1991 and started working at a small Christian school for the first semester. We moved to Louisiana the following January and served for two and a half years at Faith Christian Academy. In May of 1994, we moved to Salisbury, North Carolina, to work at Gospel Light Baptist School.

Although the school closed the following year, we decided to stay in the area and seek secular employment. We remained members of Gospel Light Baptist Church, where we continued to serve as lay people in the areas of visitation, Sunday school, and youth ministry.

In September of 2000, we were having revival services, and the Lord showed me that I was lost, that there had been no conviction or repentance of my sin when I was 9, and that there had been no change in my life since that profession. I did not go forward during the invitation due to pride, but the Lord would not give me peace until I addressed it. As I returned home, Jennifer knew something was wrong and had sensed for several years that I was unsaved. That night, I went to a friend's house and got saved. What a relief!

The next night, I shared with our church what had taken place, and several others came to faith—including our choir director. In the years since then, my testimony has continued to show others that being a church member and acting like a Christian will still send you to Hell unless you have the conviction of the Holy Spirit and Christ living in your heart. Many people I knew prior to 2000, whom I met again, tell me that I am not the same person they knew before. Praise the Lord.

In 2006, we had the opportunity to take several of our church teenagers to camp, and it was there that the Lord called me back into full-time service. The Lord began opening new opportunities to serve Him, but did not clearly reveal His plan for our family until we went on a mission trip to Peru in 2007. I praise the Lord that He has ordained my steps and directed my path to bring me to where He has.

Jennifer's Testimony

At the age of 6, I attended a Vacation Bible School at the church my family had begun attending. My parents had been saved as children but backslidden, and it took a near tragedy to bring them back to church.

While in VBS, my teacher talked about Heaven and sin and how those who have sinned and not trusted Jesus as their Savior would die and go to Hell. Though I was only 6, I knew that I had sinned, and I knew that I did not want to go to Hell. After we bowed our heads, she asked if anyone wanted to know how to go to Heaven when they died instead of Hell. I raised my hand. After class, she had me sit down with our Assistant Pastor and my mother to share the Gospel with me. I prayed and asked the Lord to save me.

As a teenager, I re-dedicated my life to the Lord and surrendered to do whatever God wanted. I attended a Christian college where we frequently had missionaries and mission conferences, but I never thought God wanted me to pursue that path. God allowed me to meet and marry Stacy, and he had dedicated his life to Christian service as the principal of a Christian school. I became a teacher and, for four years, taught various grades in Christian schools. God moved us out of the ministry after that but always kept teaching dear to my heart.

After our 2007 mission trip to Peru, it became crystal clear to both Stacy and me that God wanted us to return as missionaries, ministering in the areas that God has revealed. I am excited to answer that call with my husband and to serve the Lord alongside our Peruvian brothers and sisters in Christ.