



DANI'S TESTIMONY

My name is Dani McHugh and I am thirty years old. It is my privilege to share with you my testimony of what God has done in my life. When I was three, my family moved from Fairfield West to Bossley Park (in Sydney's West). We had been attending an Anglican church but since there was no such church in our new area, we stopped attending church altogether. The following year, God sent a man named David Williamson to knock on our door looking for work for his lawn mowing business. Although we didn't need our lawns mowed, he invited my family to attend Victory Baptist Church which was just starting in a local public school. So in 1986 I began attending Sunday school at Victory Baptist Church.

It was during the next few years at Sunday School I learned I needed to be saved. John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life". I knew that I was a sinner and had broken God's commandments. I was taught that the punishment for my sin was hell but that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross, was buried and rose again to take the punishment for my sin. It was then that I repented from my sin and asked Jesus to forgive my sin, believing that He would save me and give me eternal life. I thank God that He heard this little child's prayer and that in His mercy, He saved me.

When I was eight, I stopped going to Sunday School but by that time was attending Awana (Victory's primary school youth group) every Friday night. Although I was saved I lived life as a primary school kid doing what I wanted to do with no real thought of what God wanted to do with my life.

Each summer, I attended a week long inter-church youth camp. At the camp in 1993, which was the summer between primary school and high school for me, God really began to work in my heart. Romans 12:1-2 says "I beseech you

therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” I surrendered my life to God and began to put His commands above my own desires. I began attending church services again and spending time daily in God’s Word and in prayer. In 1996 I was baptized in obedience to God’s Word.

The Lord began to change my life and during my high school years He gradually showed me the futility of living life for myself or for anything this world has to offer. All that the world offered was temporal and paled into insignificance when compared to the eternal riches God offers and to hearing His “Well done”. It was with this realisation that God called me to go to Bible College.

In 1999 I finished my HSC and the following year I enrolled in Sydney Bible Baptist College. I praise God for the training I received at SBBC as it better equipped me to serve God. I graduated in 2002 and following year I married my husband, Mick. Over the next 8 years, God blessed us with three beautiful daughters and graciously gave us many opportunities to serve Him at Victory Baptist Church. We had the special privilege of serving the young people in our church and it is our prayer that many more young people would be saved and dedicate their lives to serve Jesus Christ.

Over the past few years, God has been working in our hearts regarding the spiritual needs of the people living in the Newcastle and Port Stephens areas. When we heard that Charlie and Janet were moving up to Newcastle to start a church, God confirmed His will for us to move up from Sydney too to help in this ministry. We praise God for the way He has opened doors and guided us and we pray that He would continue to use us for His glory.

Although there have been many times that I have failed God and fallen in my Christian walk, I thank God that He is so ready to forgive and as a loving Father He picks me up and sets me on the right way. **It is only by His grace that I am where I am and I just want to thank and praise Him for being such a wonderful God and Saviour to me.**