



Mariana's Testimony

Hi! My name is Mariana Haddad. I was born in the Canterbury area on the 2nd October 1994. When I was about three my family moved to Richmond, where my parents owned a take-a-way shop. At that time, we (my family and I) were Catholic, and we didn't know about God's Salvation. In 2001, we moved to Campbelltown and I attended a Catholic school. I knew a lot about the Bible, like the Creation story and Jesus' birth, death and resurrection, but what I didn't know or really understand was, why did Jesus come to die? Growing up in a Catholic environment I was taught that in order for me to enter Heaven was for me to: go to church; pray the Hail Mary, the Our Father, or the Rosary; do good works and if I did do something wrong to go to the priest and ask for forgiveness. You know looking back now, why did I have to go to a man to ask for forgiveness for my sin? God is the only one who can forgive sin!

I was typical little kid. I wasn't that bad of a kid. I was good at school and I did what parents told me (at times). Well if my parents did tell me to do something, I would either make an excuse that I was doing something else or do it, but, complain about it or I would make my parents call me three to five times until I answered them. Other than that, I was a "good" kid.

One weekend I was sleeping over my Uncle's house and my cousins were also there. That Friday night he gave us a Bible lesson, telling us about Jesus Death and why He really came to die for us and that without Him we can't really please him or even go to Heaven. I had never before heard about Jesus' death like that before that night. In conclusion to the Bible lesson, he asked us, "If you died tonight, did you know where you would go (heaven or hell)?" I honestly didn't know, and when my Uncle told me that I could go to Heaven, if I just repent of my sins and accept Jesus as my personal Lord

and Saviour then I could go to Heaven. I did just that and I don't regret it one bit! The date of that night was the 21st June 2003. A few Sundays later, I went to the church my Uncle was attending and Dad came too. I still remember what Dad told me on the ride there, he told me to not be upset if I didn't see any idols or pictures of saints and Mary and other such pictures that I was accustomed to in the Catholic Church. We arrived at the church and a friendly lady came and introduced herself to me and she introduced me to a girl around my age who took me to Sunday School. As we were walking to the class I was nervous, the only reason why I was, was because I was new and I didn't know whether I'd make friends or not. I did make friends and we are all still friends till this day, I thank God for the people He puts in my life.

Living for God in our society today is very hard, especially for me, a teenager. God said in His word that it wasn't going to be easy, and I know that He will help me through this hard path if I just ask Him. I love to serve God in church and soul-winning on the street. I became a member of Faith Baptist Church on the 4th February 2009, when I obeyed Him in baptism. I have grown so much in the Lord and still am every day. Now when I plan to do something big for God I always find that the devil is attacking me, and God told me that the devil would in the Bible, and I believe everything God says in there. I know that I may stumble, but God promises that He will catch me when I do. I love the Lord and the fact that I can always read about how much He loves me in His Word, the Bible. Also another thing I love about Christ is that always keeps His promises and He never lies. God is unchanging and has an unconditional love for everyone.

One of my favourite verses in the Bible is: Proverbs 3:5-6—Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

I hope and pray that whoever is reading this or any of the other testimonies on this website that if you are looking for something to fill a void in your life that you will, like me, give your life to Jesus. I want you to know that it is the **best** thing I have **ever** decided to do and I'm **not** turning back!

