

Marcus Hennig

How I met Jesus. As a small boy I grew up in different villages in Communist Germany (East Germany). I saw that each village had a church building, which bells were ringing every Sunday. I never entered a church building until the age of 8, when I went inside the ruins of an old church structure. Since I never personally knew anyone who was a Christian this "thing about the church" always fascinated me. When I asked the adults, no one gave me an answer. About the few old ladies that went to church on Sundays when the church bell rang, we never openly spoke about. So years passed without my questions being answered. At the age of 8 we moved to the city. Right in the center of town was a massive church structure. In the house where we moved on the second floor was the office of the "Staatssicherheit" (which is the communist secret police service). Our neighbor lady used to go with me for walks in the nearby park. One day she said: "I am going to church now." I asked "What are you doing there?" "We sing nice songs." She replied. I thought that was my chance to see a church from inside and maybe get some answers to my questions. I told her "I want to come with you!" This response of a 10 year old scared her and she tried to get that foolish thought out of my mind. She thought by herself "What would the parents think?", "What if the "Staatssicherheit" will find out? They might accuse me of leading this boy astray from the communist values as defined also by Nietzsche 'GOD is dead' and Lenin 'Religion is opium for the people'... However I cried so much that she took me to my parents and asked whether it is fine if I would come with to church. My parents agreed and off we went... I will never forget the experience that I had in that massive old church structure of that Lutheran Church... When she prayed the "Our Father..." at the end of the service, I felt every word like power and fire in my bones... I wanted to know more about GOD, I just had to...Some years passed. Every Saturday evening I would now go with our neighbor lady to church. One might not be able to believe that, but at that time I still hadn't seen a Bible. One day I walked with friends through town.

Somewhere on the side of the road was a person, who distributed small booklets, the Gospel according to John. I quickly stretched my hand out, however secretly and as fast as I could, to get one of these booklets. After I arrived at home, I went to my room, sat on my bed and took out this little booklet. When I started to read I was shocked to read the name "Jesus" and "GOD". These were words the communist government had banned out of our school textbooks. They didn't even write B.C (Before Christ) and A.D. (After Christ) in our history books, instead they wrote "before our time" and "after our time"... At the same time these words appeared to me so holy that I was unsure if a human being was ever even allowed to print them on plain paper... This is the first time when I heard about Jesus. A few months down the line, after the fall of communism and the re-union of East and West Germany a group of young people from Switzerland and Germany held an open-air-meeting in town, where they openly preached the gospel. Right there my Mom and I gave our lives to Jesus Christ. After some weeks, my Mom and I got baptized. Just about two years later, GOD called me into the ministry. At the age of 19 GOD sent me for 4 years to Africa, where I attended Bible College, then ministered in Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, South Africa, Swaziland and Vietnam... I worked in small offices of ministries and then GOD sent me to the German Embassy. Now we look forward what GOD is going to do next.

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I hope this testimony has been a blessing to you. If you would like to read how others have experienced the life transforming power of God please write to me at the address below. We now have over 100 testimonies of those whose lives have been transformed by God's amazing Grace. We also have over 100 Con-tracts. Please send us your testimony as well.

Bro. Otto Ball
C/o Crossroads Ministry
P.O. Box 363
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How to be saved!

Recognize your condition as a sinner.

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"

Realize the punishment for sin.

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."

Luke 13:3 "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" Understand the payment for your sin. **Romans 5:8** "But God commendeth his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Call on the name of Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

John 8:36 "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Let me help you with the words to a prayer. It is not mere words that save you; it is faith in Jesus Christ.

"Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me for my sin. Jesus, come into my heart and save my soul from Hell. I am trusting you, and you alone to take me to Heaven when I die. Thank you for saving me Jesus. Amen." If You asked Jesus to save you, please send us a letter letting us know so we can rejoice with you and pray for you. Then pass this tract on to someone else so they can hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Least of These Prison Ministries
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I'm Saved, Now What?

Once you have accepted Jesus into your heart, what's next?

Suppose you once accepted the Lord, but you did not follow through on your commitment to Him? You are only one step away from renewing your fellowship with Him. He will forgive and restore you when you confess your sin. Never allow failure to drive you *from* the Lord. Instead, run *to* Him. He is waiting for you. Or perhaps you are a new Christian. *Salvation is the first step* of a beautiful new love relationship with the Lord. The Lord created man that He might fellowship with Him. Through sin that fellowship was broken. In redemption I am reconciled to God. The Lord's desire is that we would come to know Him, and learn to live and walk in fellowship with Him. Living for Jesus is really very simple when we keep in mind that God created us for a special purpose. He wants to have a relationship with us. In other words, He wants us to get to know Him – to walk and to talk with Him. He has given us His Word, the Holy Bible, to teach us how to live. Furthermore, when we accepted Him as Savior, His Holy Spirit came to live in us. That is our guarantee that we are now able to succeed in this wonderful love relationship with our Lord. The following Bible verses will help you to see how this is done.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

Nothing is born in a fully mature state. The same is true in our walk with the Lord. We start as spiritual babies. Then we begin a process of growth. We are to grow up into Him in every area of our lives. This is done day by day, through choices we make as we learn to live in obedience to His word in an ever deepening fellowship with the Lord.

Each day as you prayerfully read your Bible and pray, your desire to please the Lord will grow guiding you up the pathway of spiritual maturity and growth into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with the Lord. The more you get to know the Lord, the more you love Him! And the more you become aware of His love for you. That sense of God's presence in your life becomes your most precious possession. In 2 Corinthians 4:7 Paul calls it the treasure we carry in these earthen vessels. "Christ in you, the hope of glory!" (Colossians 1:27) Simply put, we learn to abide in Him as he abides in us (suggested reading: John 15).

Romans 12:2 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.

There are ways of thinking that will change as you continue on with the Lord. This happens through reading the Bible and prayer and learning to apply the word of God to life situations. The most important ingredients to your new faith is prayer, Bible reading, and fellowship with other Christians. *May the Lord bless you*, as you continue on in your walk with the Lord. May the same spiritual hunger that Paul had find residence in your heart. **Philippains 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus** Your fellowship with other Bible believing Christians is an important part of God's plan for your life.

May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you always, drawing you ever closer to Himself in His love. You are special! And the Lord loves you very much. May God bless you!

The Testimony of Marcus Hennig



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