

My Testimony

by Alejandra

God at Work: Three Friends Become Three Sisters

Good Catholic in Colombia

My name is Alejandra. I was born in Colombia, South America. From a very young age I knew there was a God. Growing up as a Catholic, I was told that I had to be a good person to reach the kingdom of God. To me it was as simple as following the sacraments and being obedient to God's Word. I was also very involved in church activities and followed their regulations. I attended church every Sunday, but when I had to confess my sins to the priest, I never felt like God had truly forgiven me. There was always a lack of peace.



Missing Something My Friend Had

A year before coming to the United States, I met a young girl who called herself a Christian. She was different compared to other girls in my class. We became very close friends and I started going to her house. Many times her mother would invite me to go to church and hear the Word of God. While I never had any intention to go and always said no, deep inside I knew I was missing something they had. Little did I know it wouldn't be in Colombia where God would make things clear to me; He had another plan.

Broken Relationship

A couple of months after moving to the USA, I was attending a public high school in Philadelphia where my Spanish counselor invited me to some gospel meetings. Without knowing what these meetings would be like, my mom and I were more open this time and we said yes. While attending the meetings, I was able to meet Melvin and Rachel Mendez. Rachel was very kind and persistent and she kept inviting us to more meetings. As we continued to attend the meetings and established a good friendship with the Mendez's, it became clear to me that my relationship with God was broken. The reason I had come to this conclusion was the 'guilt' I felt each time when Mr. Mendez talked about the things God did not like – sin! I felt like I had failed Him over and over. It was clear to me that I was a sinner, and needed to accept Jesus as my Savior.

Teenager's Death Brought Realities into Focus

It all came to a head on the day of the funeral of Lucas Santos. He was a young teenager from the local assembly of Christians, who had died very suddenly. It was in 2008, a month before I graduated from high school that the veil of blindness came off and I was able to see with new eyes what the Lord had done for me. That evening, David Curran and Melvin Mendez preached the gospel at the Santos' home. While listening to them, I was still very shocked from the sudden death of the sweet and adventurous Lucas. Many thoughts were going through my head and I just started thinking about my own death and my brothers and I started questioning if I was ready to die or not. I started to cry and couldn't stop. I was devastated, mostly because I knew that I didn't want to die without accepting Jesus as my Savior. I knew that if I died at that moment I would go to hell because of my sin.

Through John 3:16 I Was Saved

After the meeting was done, I told both speakers that I wanted to talk to them. The three of us went to the porch and sat down to read some verses from the Bible. Through my tears, I understood from God's Word that there was nothing I could do to get to heaven but that God sent His only begotten Son to die for me and "that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Thankfully, that was just the beginning of the Lord working in my life. He not only saved my soul, but He began to show me that He wanted me to make Him the priority of my life.

Eternally Saved but Not Perfect

After starting college, I began to distance myself from the Lord. However, during the summer of 2009, I promised myself that I would be baptised as a Christian and be publicly identified with my Lord before starting the fall semester at college. I also wanted to join the local community of Christians in Olney, a neighborhood in NE Philadelphia. I prayed without ceasing for guidance so that God would restore me and bring me back on track spiritually. Soon after, He opened the doors and I was able to fulfill my promise. After that, my ongoing desire was to learn more and become a living testimony for Christ to my friends.

Friday Night Light Bible Study

It was at that time that Rachel Mendez told me about the Friday Night Light Bible Studies at the Pennsauken Gospel Hall, led by Don Draper. I decided to attend. To my surprise, after I started going to these Bible studies, my two best friends from high school, Johana and Pamela, also showed an interest in attending the studies. It was there that both of them realized they too needed a Savior and were saved by God's grace. After so many years of knowing each other, I never imagined that God was going to bring us even closer together as sisters in Christ. I am grateful for what He has done in each one of our lives and I pray that He may protect us and preserve us for His honor and glory.