

# *My Testimony*

by Ioannis Kalos

Being an orphan from Greece, I was adopted at age 5 and sent to America. By age 13, I was rejected by my adoptive parents. Lonely and fed up from living in numerous failed foster homes and institutions and filled with bitterness and resentment – I retreated at age 17 some 3,000 miles away to the mountains of California with a sleeping bag and a backpack.

While in San Francisco, I came across a vegetarian restaurant that served as a Christian witnessing station for teenagers like me. Wandering in, I ordered a veggie-burger. While the young fellow was preparing lunch; a large poster on the wall read: “Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Intrigued, I thought, “To whom is this referring to?” I then noticed a Bible flanked between each cruet set. “Religion Help; get me out of here,” I cried! I was full of resentment due to my adopted parents being in a religious cult.

As I made a bolt to the door, the young fellow, named Steve, came back with my burger. Sensing my apprehension, he assured me that he would not ‘button-hole’ me and there would be no catch---I can eat this free meal and leave with no questions or discussions. With that, I sat down and proceeded to eat.

However, I had a series of doubts and nagging questions for Steve who served me. Unruffled, Steve answered and added, “I don’t know all the answers, but I do know Jesus Christ.” I asked him another troubling question. “If God is such a loving God, why doesn’t he do something and alleviate the world’s problems? Surely he is either incapable or too busy to care!” It was obvious I was concerned more about what happened to me rather than the world. God has given up caring about this orphan. Steve answered calmly, the same answer, but he added something new, “I don’t know all the answers to your questions, but I do know Jesus Christ for myself; and you can know Jesus Christ for yourself too. Here take this as a free gift.” It was a New Testament. I was stunned, “Did I hear right, I can know Jesus too? Wow!” I took the New Testament and deposited it safely into my backpack. I thanked Steve for the meal and left.

Six months later with my backpack and sleeping bag, I headed into the Sierra-Nevada Mountains to Yosemite National Park. I was extremely lonely. As I contemplated my state, I felt more and more depressed until an inner voice reminded me that I had hidden the Bible away and not read it. I thought, “What good is this book? Either read it or throw it away.” With that, I opened the Bible at random and came across Mark 5:25-34 about a woman with an incurable disease that no physician could ever cure. Then she met Jesus who healed her! I closed the Bible and for the first time; I was confronted with who Jesus really is! “Is He God? Only God can heal!” A struggle began in my heart between God’s Word and the Devil’s whispers.

Thankfully, God’s wonderful sovereignty overruled. The Lord won that struggle and saved me. I surrendered to God and in an instant I trusted God and His Word. Everything was changed. The sky was bluer, the mountains were greener, and I was at peace. Now I know that Jesus Christ, who healed that woman so long ago, is God. He healed me too! On returning to San Francisco I sought Steve who gave me the New Testament. He was still working at the vegetarian restaurant and confirmed that what I experienced was salvation. “I was born again,” he said!

I have kept in touch with Steve over the years. He since mailed me a Gospel CD called, “Master of The Storm” which he recorded. Jesus Christ is my Master in life’s storms! Better yet, He saved me from a terrible coming storm; an eternity lost and judgment upon all who refuse to submit and surrender to Jesus who is the deliverer and Saviour of the world (John 3:16).

Three months later, with a group of 14 others, in obedience to what I read in the Bible, I was baptized in the Pacific Ocean just outside of San Francisco and joined in with a local Baptist church that was full of young converts. The year was 1971 and since then I have never looked back! God is good and keeps all who truly trust in Him. The Lord knows our weak frame; He knows it all; our hurts; troubles; both past and present. He sure knew mine and did not leave me alone or destitute. As Psalm 27:10 says; ‘When my father and mother forsake me; the Lord will take me up.’ God reached down and took me up and set my feet on a better way to go than from aimless wanderings.

California and Yosemite was fantastic to behold; but I didn't enjoy the scenery until my eyes fell across God's Word. I'm no longer lonely, fed up and rejected. I am a child of God and a brother to a very large family of brothers and sisters that is world-wide; which is the Church of the living God, the Body of Christ. God has since blessed me with a lovely Irish wife who also believes and trusts in Jesus. May God bless you as you read this and grant you peace and salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, and may He join you to His large world-wide family!

Life is good and my journey, which began in 1971, is not over nor will it ever end; for John 3:16 says:

**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believes in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.”**



*Ioannis and Joan Kalos*