

TERRY LEAVER'S TESTIMONY

I had some experience with Church having been sent to Sunday School at the Congregational Church at Kilkenny as a child. My parents were not born again although my mother always said Church was good for me. Mum went to the Methodist church in Moonta as a child and always said she believed in God and lived a good life. I am an only child and although my childhood was lonely at times my parents were always loving and supportive giving me the chance to get a tertiary education and become a secondary teacher, teaching art, drama, history and geography. In my fourth year of teaching I was made a senior master and eventually a head of faculty in drama and art. I loved teaching and always did what I could to enthuse and encourage the children in my care to pursue their dreams and goals.

In my mid- twenties I started attending the Assemblies of God at Klemzig where I met my lovely wife Lyn and we have been married for forty-one years.

My wife and I set up a video business to film Christian speakers, outreaches, sermons and the like and we had more work than we could handle as we were both still in full time work. We began having troubles because a few churches would not pay their bills for the work we had completed for them. They would ask us to give our videos as a love gift or just ignored our accounts. A large church said if we did not see fit to give them the master tapes, they would blacklist us and we would get no more work. This was a terrible time and threatened to destroy our ministry and our personal finances. Eventually we left the church.

Although I considered myself to be a good living man, always concerned for my family and the children I taught, I was a drinker, often blasphemed, would often lie to avoid difficult situations. When I moved to a Catholic college, I became friends with a number of teachers deeply involved in new age and occult practices including witchcraft. I studied to be a witch in the High Corellian tradition completing the first degree of a three- degree programme that would have allowed me to marry people and run rituals. I purchased hundreds of books on new age topics, philosophy and witchcraft but

slowly I started to feel a darkness and depression which continued to get worse and was affecting me badly so I decided it was time to stop. I changed colleges and did not continue to practise witchcraft.

My teaching career was very successful but the new technologies that were being introduced to the schools became a problem to me and in 2009 I retired.

A few years ago, I started to notice that the world was starting to change radically, good was being seen as bad and bad things were being championed as virtuous. Everyone seemed to be seeking their own self-interest at the expense of others, governments were not serving the people but pursuing global agendas promoting the loss of our national sovereignty. I started looking into conspiracy theories, the new world order, 9/11 and much more and found myself now worrying continually for the safety of my family. I looked into prepping, storing food, preparing survival equipment and watching dozens of documentaries and while most were based in absolute truth and exposed the evil excesses of the global elite, I was becoming fearful and hard to live with, developing a negative attitude to most things and frustrated that no one would listen to the warnings I was sharing.

I began reading a book called "The forbidden Secret" by Jonathan Gray. I had been told that there was no archaeological evidence for anything in the bible but this author spent most of his life investigating bible sites and I was astounded at his findings. Not only did he detail how archaeology proved the bible to be true he told me about being born again and how our safety now and for eternity comes from accepting Jesus and only Jesus and that when we accept him all fear goes for fear is of the devil.

I began to pray and seek the Lord over the next few weeks and believe the Lord was preparing me to meet him. Firstly, I was prompted to clean my house and get rid of all vestiges of new age and witch craft items, certain fine art, and photography books, comics, DVDs, novels, and all of our Halloween decorations. Because of the hundreds of items that needed to go I hired a large skip so everything would go to the dump. I was impressed to destroy all these items not to sell them on or give them to people. I found a

day when I was home alone and smashed and tore up everything easily filling the very large skip. I started to watch Christian programmes on TV and YouTube, and read as much as I could on various Christian topics. Next the Lord told me I was to find a church and that he would help me. I did not know Northside Baptist Church existed until I went down Nelson Road on my way home from an appointment.

As I approached the church, I felt the Lord say this is where you should go. Stopping, I took down the details off the board and returned a few days later and met Pastor Simeon. He indicated it was odd that I had caught him at the church for he was meant to be somewhere else. Praise the lord for those small fortuitous events in timing.

I had not been to church for approximately forty years until I attended a service at Northside Baptist Church on Sunday the 30th of December last year and gave my life to Jesus Christ. I was unsure of my salvation so after the service I spoke with Pastor in his office and was presented with the Gospel. I knelt and in tears, repented of my sin and received Christ as my Saviour. I am now saved and have eternal life and am in a condition of joyful transformation from the inside out.

I love my lord and Saviour and am finding great strength in his word and through prayer. The Holy Spirit is doing a great work in me and things of the past are fading. I am developing a positive outlook and with his help I hope my family will see the good changes in me. The Lord is blessing me and I am now starting to experience a joy and love in my life that I have not felt for many years.

I give all the glory to Jesus who saved a sinner like me.

Who is Jesus Christ?

Colossians 1:14-22

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: