

# MY CONVERSION TO CHRIST AND CALL TO GOD'S SERVICE

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The Lord Jesus Christ is the only living and true God. I am a sincere witness of His saving grace and loving guidance in life in terms of eternity. I know Him personally since September 5, 1973. He talks with me every day and I too talk to Him. He is the best of my friends, my master, my Lord and God. I owe this life to Him for He loved me and died on the cross, shed His precious blood and has reconciled me back to God Himself.

### EARLY DAYS

My parents were members of The Roman Catholic Church. As an infant the priest sprinkled water on my head and named me Vincent. My elder brother David and I were admitted into a R.C. hostel run by a Dutch R.C. priest for education where a Nun had much influence in my life. She guided me in the things of celibacy, obedience, discipline etc. Due to her encouragement I took up Latin which would pave my entry into R.C. seminary for priesthood. During that period I came across certain shocking and confusing situations.

When I took admission in the college I found my life meaningless with ritualistic religious life. Even though I was regular for confession, mass, rosary prayers etc. the question of my sin used to trouble me. There was no assurance of forgiveness but fear of purgatory remained unanswered and unsolved. I read other religious books but could not get any real answers for the salvation of my soul. I read a book called "How to find God" by Billy Graham but that led me to more peace less condition it did guide me to read the Bible. As days and nights were passing through frustration even my close friends did not know my inward struggles.

### CONVERSION

God in His mercy sent an evangelist Mr. A. G. Jacob to that town whom I met at the railway station on September 5, 1973. He led me to the Lord on that very same day through Isaiah 1:18 after a prolonged discussion. I was born again from above and obeyed the Lord's command in the waters of baptism. I was sent out from the R. C. Church and my parents and relatives started persecuting me. The Lord preserved me and allowed me to witness to others of His saving grace.

### CALL

In a cottage meeting the preacher was ministering from Acts, 1:8 from which the Lord spoke to me that I should be His witness. With all simplicity and sincerity I committed my life to

the Lord that day and after 40 years I can still recall that solemn moment at the feet of my resurrected Saviour.

### **COMMENDATION & COMMISSION**

After studying God's word and equipping myself to be commended by a Believer's Assembly, Bargarh. I moved to the present town TITILAGARH on January 15, 1980 trusting in the Lord to give me souls. Not knowing how my needs would be met, the Lord guided me to start distributing literature and contacting persons with gospel. I married Thankamma from Kerala and we are blessed with two daughters. In the year 1984 I was arrested and put into the prison for preaching and distributing Christian literature. I took it as an opportunity to witness to men in authority. We saw God's unseen hands in delivering us from prison and persecution.

Orissa state where we labour has an anti conversion law since 1967. This state is also known for persecutions against Christians. But God is working and many souls are getting saved and above 50 Assemblies are raised within the last 50 years. Orissa has a population of about 40 million but hardly even a few hundred saved believers can be found.

### **ASSEMBLIES AND EVANGELISTS**

The Lord has raised two Assemblies, one in the town of TITILAGARH where I am in fellowship.

### **ORPHANAGE:-STREAMS IN THE DESERT**

Since 1993 the Lord guided us to start giving accommodation and education to orphans and poor boys. This ministry is registered as STREAMS IN THE DESERT. Many of these boys have found the Saviour during their time here. All the needs towards this ministry are met through the provision of God's people. Each gift is furnished with receipt and every year auditor's reports are maintained. At present we have 40 children. We praise God for His faithfulness.

### **BEYOND THE REGIONS**

As the Lord opens the doors and enables me I have stepped into all the provinces of India to preach or teach His message to the lost and the faithful. The Lord has allowed me to be His witness in the countries of India, Nepal, England and the U.S.A. I am earnestly praying to the Lord to open doors for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

Orissa, where Graham Steins and his two young kids Philip and Timothy were burnt to death, continues to oppose the gospel. In the year 2008 several Christians lost their lives due to anti-Christian riots. Many houses and church buildings were burnt. One R. C. Nun was openly raped in front of the police. Open air preaching of the gospel is banned, yet we Praise God for preserving and making use of us.

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