

TESTIFY

MAGAZINE

June 2026



The Family Mission

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15



MERENTHIA CRONJE

An Absolute Hope
in The Lord



Scan Me!

IN THIS EDITION

Issue 41
June 2026

GOSPEL MUSIC EDITION



The Family Mission

We are a Christian missionary family with a big vision: to share the life-changing message of the Gospel and extend Christ's love to those in need.

For over 41 years, by God's grace, we have wholeheartedly dedicated our lives to this calling. Each morning, we wake up with one purpose: to live for Jesus and serve others. Whether it's distributing Gospel tracts and Bibles, providing food and clothing, visiting hospitals and churches, or simply praying with people in need.

Our journey has taken us across the globe with mission work in Russia, Poland, India, South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Eswatini (Swaziland), Namibia, Mozambique, and many other countries. We spent 20 years living and serving in Botswana, and have traveled extensively throughout South Africa, town by town, spreading the Good News.

EDITORIAL

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TESTIFY MAGAZINE (TELLING PEOPLE'S STORIES - AFFIRMING GOD IS ALIVE!)

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COVER STORY

THE FAMILY MISSION IS ON AN EPIC MISSION



THE FAMILY MISSION

What is the Family Mission?

The Family Mission

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"He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time..."
2 Timothy 1:9

"That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe." 1 Timothy 4:10



What Do We Believe?

The Bible

We believe that the Bible (66 books, written by over 40 people) is God-inspired, inerrant and is to be the authoritative rule of life and practice for all Christians. We believe the Scriptures can be fulfilled and must not be broken. We believe that the Old Testament was the type and shadow of better things to come, and that the New Testament is the perfect expression of God's will and Character as expressed through Jesus Christ. The Epistles are the expression of what Christ has done for us and

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desires to do through us. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 1:1-3; John 10:35; Matt. 5:19, 19:17; 1 John 2:3-4)

God

Creator and Sustainer of all things, who is the infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love; that He mercifully concerns Himself in the affairs of mankind; that He hears and answers prayer; and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. We believe that God eternally co-exists in three persons--Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who are omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. (1 John 5:7-8; Matt. 1:20-25; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

Jesus Christ

We believe Jesus Christ is God; that He is God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin. We believe He lived a sinless life, performed miracles and infallibly taught, lived and is the Word of God "from the beginning." He freely laid aside His glory, humbled Himself and became incarnate as a man. We believe Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and mankind. - We believe Jesus Christ physically resurrected from the dead and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father, forever making intercession for His people. Just as He resurrected from the dead, His resurrection is the guarantee of the resurrection unto eternal life for all who put their faith in Him. (Psa.2:7 ;Is.53 ; Jn.3:16 ;Jn.1:1-3 ,10 ;Ps.16:10 ;Mt.28:9 ;Ps.68:18a ;Acts 1:9 ;Ps.110:1 ;Acts 4:12 ;Rm.8:34)

The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is God. He came forth from the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. (John

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16:8) The Holy Spirit is the agent of regeneration and sanctification for believers in Jesus Christ. He teaches, comforts, guides, convicts and enables believers to live in honor to God. He empowers believers for ministry and indwells everyone who places their faith in Jesus Christ. We believe in the present and interactive ministry of the Holy Spirit and in all the spiritual gifts described in the Bible, which He continues to give today. (John 14:12; 16:7-16; Acts 1:8)

Salvation

We believe that by accepting and confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, asking Him to forgive our sins, and putting our faith in Him, we are regenerated through the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. This results in a spiritual rebirth, as we become a new creation in Him. (Galatians 3:19; 1 John 3:9; John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:8; 2Cor. 5:17)

The Atonement

We believe in the shed blood and substitutionary death of Jesus Christ for the atonement of our sins. We believe that He was buried for three days and three nights and afterward was bodily resurrected from the grave. His sacrifice provides the only ground for justification, forgiveness, sanctification, and salvation to all who put their faith in Him.

We believe Divine Healing is the power of God to heal the sick (in mind or body), that healing for every person was included in Christ's atoning sacrifice, and that it is God's will for every Christian to minister healing to anyone at any time. (Psalm 103:2; Isaiah 53:4; Matt. 8:16-17; 1 Peter 2:24; John 14:12)

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Christian Mission

We believe that the Christian Mission is to: Love God in thought, word, and deed & to love your neighbour as yourself, which is practiced by doing unto them as you would have done unto you. Your love for God and man will be demonstrated by reproducing disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, both domestically and in foreign lands by every Biblical method. (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 7:11-29; Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor.9: 16)



‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ Matthew 25:40

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What Are Some Of The Results Of Our Efforts?

Through prayer and donations we were able to do these things.

God's

Food given to the poor

Bibles, tracts, books, and literature distributed

Financial support given to other missions

Distance traveled with the good news

Current Daily Reach

Grace

R3 00 000

4 600 000 000

R1 500 000

2 500 000 km

250 000

***"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written,
How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15***

Are You Saved?

Will you go to Heaven when you die?

Eternity is a long time to be wrong.

Are you a good person? Let's check the Ten Commandments:

Is God first in your life?

Do you love Him with "heart, mind, soul and strength?"

Have you made a god to suit yourself?

Have you used God's name in vain?

Have you kept the Sabbath holy?

Have you always honored your parents?

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Jesus said that whoever looks upon a woman to lust after her, has committed adultery already with her in his heart. Ever looked with lust?

Have you hated anyone, and therefore committed murder in your heart?

Have you lied (including fibs),
Stolen (the value is irrelevant) or
Coveted other people's possessions?

If you answered honestly, you know you're not good, and will be guilty on the Day of Judgement. God, however, doesn't want to send you to Hell. Jesus Christ suffered and died on the Cross in your place, so you could go free. That's how much God loves you! We broke God's Law, but Jesus paid our fine. Then He rose from the grave and defeated death. If you repent and trust in Him, God will forgive your sins and grant you everlasting life. Obey the gospel today. Read your Bible daily and obey what you read. Go tell others about Jesus Christ, He died for their sins too!

"They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Acts 16:31

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

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**CAN YOU
HELP?**



Please contact Ben at the following email address to assist this amazing Family and all they are doing in and for God's Kingdom:

botfam@gmail.com

Editors Note

What an amazing family that has taken up the call to tell the world the Good News of Jesus Christ. One that should inspire us all to do exactly this, thank you to ben and his family for all that they are doing, one important way that they are sharing the Good News is vbia City Bibles Key Chains, a game changing tool in the spreading of the Good News, you too can obtain these Key Chains and spread the Good News, go to www.citybibles.co.za and order yours today!



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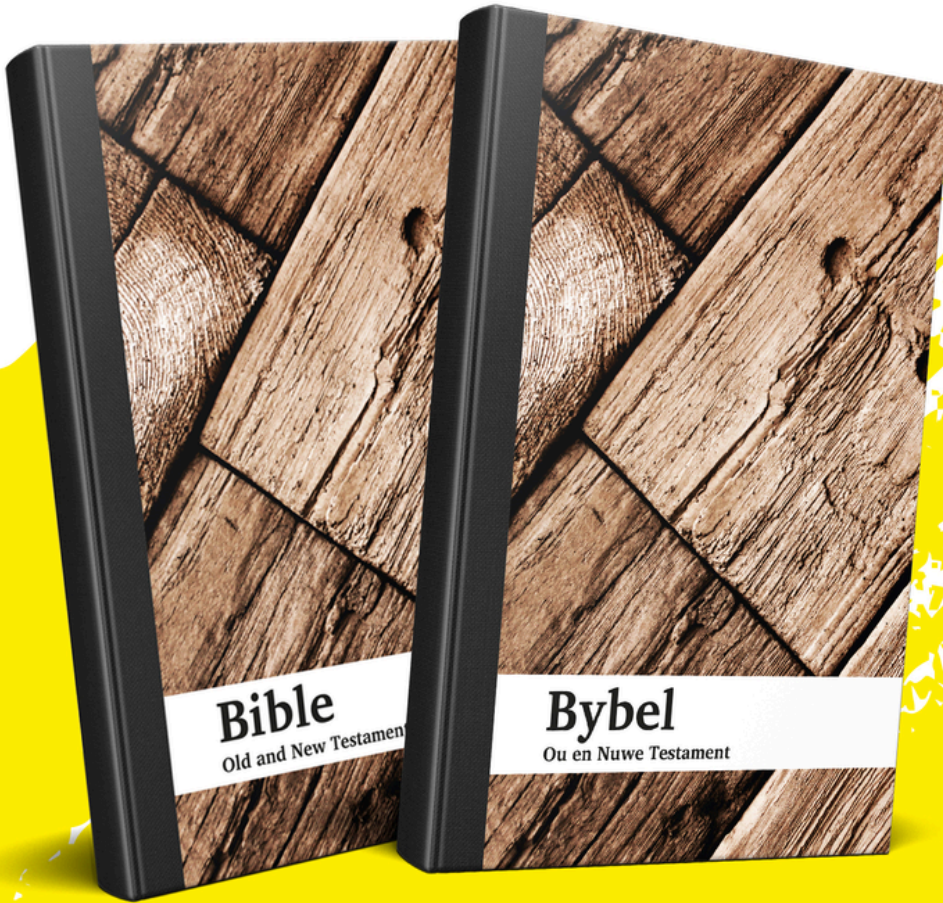
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Saam maak ons 'n verskil

in honger harte en magies.



**VRUGTE BOME
VOED DIE VLEES**



**DIE WOORD
VAN DIE HERE
VOED DIE GEES**

Help my Janco Jacobs

**om 'n verskil te maak in die
kinders in en om Middelburg se lewens.**

*Elke kind verdien om sy of haar
eie Bybel te hê.*



Psalm 1 vers 3 sê :

*“En hy sal wees soos 'n boom wat
geplant is by waterstrome, wat sy vrugte gee
op sy tyd en waarvan die blare nie verwelk nie;
en alles wat hy doen, voer hy voorspoedig uit.”*



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vir jare lank!*



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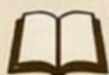
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AN ABSOLUTE HOPE IN THE LORD



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I think all of us had this thought in our lives at least once - It won't happen to me, until it happens to you....

The first time I got to speak in church was when I had to make a devotion to my first ever boyfriend who died in a car accident when I was 18 years old. The second time was when I had to make a devotion to my 20-year-old brother who fought for his life for a year after being involved in a head-on collision. I thank God that I got to see him build a relationship with God that year.

The third time was to my father; in 2011 he got a life-saving liver transplant which granted us 9 years longer with him by the grace of God! I thank God that I got to see my father turn to God. In June 2020 he died due to a heart attack.

Then it was my turn...

I died on the 26 th of December 2020.

Our family thought of joining my mother for Christmas in 2020, as this would be the first Christmas without my dad and we didn't want her to be alone. On the morning of the 26 th of December 2020, we went to zipline. Our twins were 4 years old at that time and our youngest 2 years old. Each child was harnessed to myself, my husband and my mother. As we were bending our knees getting ready to go to our first landing a lady already standing ready at the first landing to take a video of us, my husband asked the instructor if we were not too heavy for the cables' capacity because the lines slacked quite a lot.

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The instructor told him that he shouldn't worry about it.

We barely started when my husband shouted that I should lift my legs which I did immediately. I felt something hitting me on my back, my son Janco started crying, I told him not to worry, I wouldn't let him go. I didn't realize what had happened. I just felt my head feeling heavy and I lost consciousness. My husband started with CPR as I stopped breathing and were turning blue until the paramedics could take over and I started breathing. When I reached a hospital in George, I went into surgery immediately where it was established that my L1 vertebrae was broken and an instrumented posterior decompression and fusion from T12 to L3. I also suffered a stable fracture of C7 and rib fractures. The L1 vertebrae was broken in half which caused my nerves to be cut off

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completely, I was a paraplegic. I can't remember a lot of my week in hospital – I remember when the surgeon told me that I was paralyzed and I'll never walk again, he asked to pray for me, I was in shock and I think I didn't realize what he was telling me. I remember that one night in the hospital an elderly lady telling me that there is 2 men beside my bed and they are angels.

I spent a month in a stepdown facility just outside of George, I spend as much time as I could outside, focusing on the mountains and eagles flying remembering God's words: Isaiah 40:31

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.”

From there I was transferred to a rehabilitation center in Cape Town for another month. There was a policeman in the facility who had been involved in a motor vehicle accident, he told me that in 8 years I'd be walking again and I took it as prophetic word and I knew I couldn't just sit and wait for something to happen. I got to go home in March 2021 – I'll never forget how my children looked at me, scared and unsure. I had to learn to adapt to my new “normal”. I lost my self-confidence as a wife, a mother, an employee, as a human being. I couldn't wear what I wanted to anymore, I couldn't be as independent as I wanted to. The first week at home I even did research on how to commit suicide. But I couldn't – I couldn't let my loved one's feel that they're not worthy enough to live for, nor could I could I reject the second chance God gave me. I also remembered the Word of God reminding me:

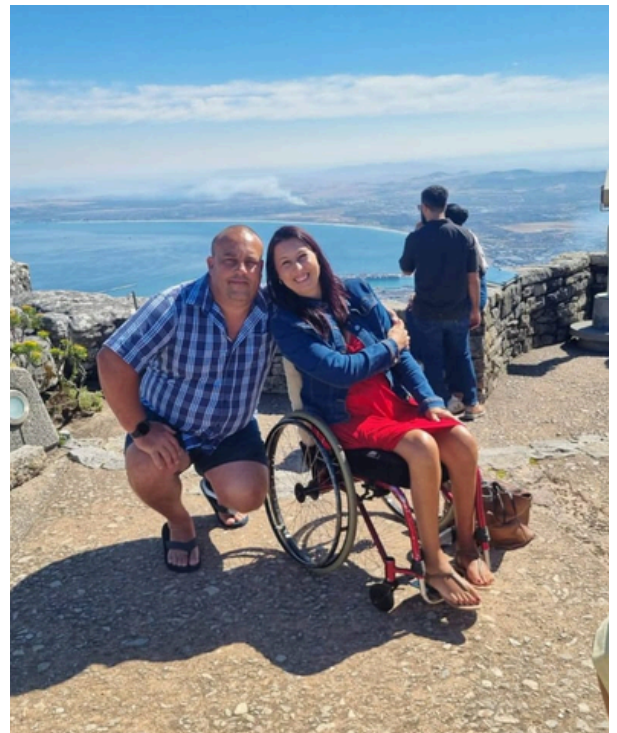
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Joshua 1:9

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

I've experienced pain since March 2021 – cramps that felt like my muscles in my legs and feet were pulling and then there's the shocking pains. Pain that feels like someone is electrocuting me. It gets so bad that I can only stop breathing, clench my teeth until it stops. Time's I'd cry, because there's nothing I could do about it.

I lost count of how many times I whispered I can't do this anymore God, yet every time in ALL circumstances God carried me.



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During the winter of 2022 my friend told me that she just attended a church, but she didn't want to go alone every time, and I told her that I'd love to go with her. That's how my journey started with God at Lighthouse church. I've always believed in God for as long as I can remember, I knew about Him but I now realize I never knew Him.

In 2023 my sister shared an article with me about experimental stem cell therapy and I immediately decided to undergo stem cell therapy. The doctor instructed me to start with physiotherapy so that the stem cells can fill the space where my nerves were cut and learn the messages, e.g. lifting my legs etc. I didn't hesitate and got my first appointment in August 2023. In July 2023 shortly after I received my stem cells, I obtain 2nd degree wounds on my upper legs. I ended up in hospital 10 days later that month as my burn wounds were infected and I started with sepsis. I was in hospital for 10 days to receive treatment. I ended up in hospital in October 2023 and again in December 2023 with bladder infections, all parts of paraplegia. It's as if everything bad started to happen after I let God be a bigger part of my life, but I had an "Even if" faith and I was reminded by God of His Word: Romans 5:3-4: 'Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope' On the 28th of November 2023, while waiting outside in the sun, I moved my left leg without noticing. When I saw that I was able to swing my left leg from left to right, I immediately took a video of it, just to make sure I wasn't hallucinating.

I was crying and filled with hope again, fresh hope. December 2023, I started practicing walking with leg braces and walking frame. As I

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stood upright, I remembered how tall I was.

During the year of 2023 my trails were many, but God's grace was more. I made the following Words my own, and even had it tattooed on me: Psalm 46:5 God is within her, she shall not fall" 2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight" I've been a luke-warm Christian and knew I had so much to be thankful for and gave my heart and soul to God being baptized in Lighthouse church on the 25 th of February 2024. By August 2024 I got the finances via back-a-buddy to get walking calipers, which secured my legs so that I could stand upright and walk independently with a waling frame.

March 2025 I was removed from Operations at the workplace and had to work from home permanently – that broke my confidence that I had been rebuilding the last few years after the accident In October 2025 my physio therapist said it was time for me to start practicing walking with crutches. I was nervous, I was scared but I didn't refuse. I was up for trying anything to meet God halfway.

And so, I did; by December 2025 I didn't need anyone to cling to my waist, I could walk alone. Okay, not entirely alone. I needed someone close, very close, as there were times, I'd lose my balance and fall backwards. I knew we tend to tell people when they are facing trails, heartache or anxiety, that God gives the worst battles to His toughest soldiers or everything happens for a reason. I don't agree with either of these statements, what I do know is: Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

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and

Romans 8:28: “in all things God works for the good of those who love him” I exercise almost everyday by walking alone with my walking frame and my calipers on, I am also walking much better with crutches.

In March 2026 I started exercising to kick, attempting to lift my left and right leg. I am slightly lifting each leg, but I am practicing daily. The more I try, the more I give my brain exposure to create muscle memory, the better my chances to one day only use half-calipers, that I can secure my knees on my own, only needing half of the

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caliper's length and the straightening section on my feet.

I am excited to see what God's going to do and I am thankful for everything God has done. God has placed so many people in my life who support me – from my friend who helped me with transport to work, to get our hair done or just getting out of the house, my mother-in-law who was there helping me in exercising walking with the walking frame for a year, children who pray for me every night, my mother and sister cheering me on from a 1 000 kilometers away, a Lifegroup of women who share my tears and victories, a husband who stayed even if I opened the gate for him to go, even though I resented him for not letting me go.

It's still not easy - I miss dancing, I miss feeling the grass under my feet, I miss moving freely, but my eyes are set on Jesus.

I am sorry God that I had to be flat on my back before I ever looked up... really looked up...

In my journey I got to know God, not just know about Him, I got to experience Jehovah-Rapha, the God who heals, the Way maker, Miracle worker, Promise Keeper and I know I was made for more. I am not disabled, I am differently abled...and yes, God needs someone like that too.

There's a miracle with my Name on it, thanks to Jesus Christ and Amen!

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS!

HAVE YOU ACCEPTED JESUS
CHRIST?

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Romans 3:23 ESV

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

The abovementioned verse is an extremely well used verse and many people know it and can even quote it off by heart, but the significance of it is the reality that every single person needs to contemplate.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Personal Saviour yet or are thin king about it, you have to start here. The reality of your sin problem cancels and disqualifies you from the very presence of God and this bars you from eternal Life. Your choices are simple here, either an eternity with God or an Eternity without God. I would think that the logical answer would be an Eternity with God. Why? Well let's look at this:

2 Thessalonians 1:9

"They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might"

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This is the reality of a choice that omits Jesus as your Personal Saviour -

- = **Everlasting Punishment**
- = **Destruction**
- = **Shut Out**
- = **No Godly Presence**
- = **And no Glory at all**

This is not something to take lightly and by the way this is not scaring you into making a false decision, God is love, thus we as His followers are love, this means if I say I have the love of God, it is my duty to tell you the truth and point you into the right direction.

So in looking at the sin problem and the reality of this, what is the answer then? Let's look at this:

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

NASB

What a wonderful solution to an immense problem, God has made a way and in making the way He has also made it very clear that this is the only answer to the problem. You have to accept Jesus His Son in order to obtain Eternal Life and ward off all the destruction and other bad things spoken about in the previous Bible verse.

It also makes it very clear that this can only be done through JESUS CHRIST His Son, there is no other way to salvation or Eternal life other than through Jesus, NONE!

Let's look at this too:

John 1:12-13

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

NASB

Wow! Just look at this, not only do we get Eternal Life but we become Children of God. The impact of this is massive as it speaks to the fact that we now belong to the family of God and receive the benefits of being part of a family, and not just any family but a royal family (1 Peter 2 vs 9).

So in looking and understanding all of this, How do you accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour?

Romans 10 vs 9-10

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

NASB

Let me just make one point very clear before we look at the above verses, your salvation cannot be obtained by good works, you cannot go to Heaven or be part of God's family because you are a good person, or you do good deeds, No! The Bible makes it clear, if you want to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour then it gets done on the basis of two things. These two things are critical because it will also help you on your work with the Lord and attain righteousness and a life pleasing to God.

Firstly, you have to confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord, this is very important because by your confession God will know and people in the world will know. This is significant because one does not hide a light under a bowl. Everyone must see and hear that you are a child of God.



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And secondly you must believe in your heart, with your whole being and understanding that Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive and is your only Saviour.

So if you have read all of this and the Holy Spirit is directing you to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour please pray the prayer on the next page, God loves you so much.

ACCEPTING JESUS IS EVERYTHING!

PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Dear Lord Jesus,

I understand that I am a sinner and in need of desperate saving, The Bible tells me clearly that the only answer is for me to confess with my mouth and believe in my heart. I am now confessing with my mouth that I am accepting You as my Personal Saviour and believing in my heart that you are alive and well and dwelling within me. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of other Believers and allow me please to follow in your footsteps. Amen! Wow! Congratulations if you have just prayed this prayer, and know that you are now part of the family of the Kingdom of God. Please tell someone about your decision, pray all the time and read and study your Bible. Find a Holy Ghost, Bible preaching church and join.

Please let us know if you have made this decision and allow us to point you in the right direction.

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