MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY – Judy Banes

I grew up going to church and went to church and Sunday School every Sunday, so if you were to ask me if I was going to go to heaven when I died, my answer would have been: "Of course I am, I go to church every week and I believe in Jesus."

I remember when I was a teenager basing my choices on what would Jesus want me to do.

When I was married and had 2 children we still went to the same denomination I was raised in. I remember my mother saying she wished we could find a Bible preaching church to attend. By God's divine plan, a lay leader from Grace Brethren preached in my aunt's church in Shellsburg, so she recommended this church as this was the church he was from, so we visited and started attending regularly.

That was over 50 years ago!! I'll never forget sitting in Marvin Millers Sunday School class where they were studying a series by Bill Bright, from Campus Crusade for Christ. It was titled "the 10 Concepts of Christian Living ". The first one was "How to Be Sure You Are a Christian". That booklet spoke to both my husband, Dick, and me.

Never before had we heard how to have a personal relationship with Jesus. You see, we just had a head knowledge of Jesus all those years, but after reading that booklet, we both prayed and asked Jesus to forgive our sins and come into our hearts and make us the kind of people He wanted us to be!

John 1:12 says: But as many as receive Him, to <u>them</u> He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

I can't begin to tell you what a difference Jesus has made in my life! Does that mean it has always been an easy life since I have become a Christian? Definitely not, but it does mean I have someone to go to when things get hard, who understands what I am going through, someone who loves me unconditionally no matter what.

Philippians 4:19 says: And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

He's a friend who will never fail me, who I know will be there in my greatest joys and my deepest sorrows.

I just can't imagine my life without Him!!