MY TESTIMONY – 5/26/26

Something happened to me on the night of March 14, 1982, at the age of 24, that changed my life forever and changed the way I looked at life. As I think back to when I was a young girl, I will always remember the time, as I was laying in my top bunkbed all alone in my room, looking up at the ceiling, that what I can only describe as a cloud of light appeared, hovering over me and then slowly dissipating. And, no, it wasn't the sun shining through my window! But it was the Son, shining His light on me. From that time on, I can see where God continued to shine rays of light along my pathway, leading me to that night.

One of those guiding lights was watching the movie "The Ten Commandments" for the first time. That movie made such an impact on me. It was as if God was introducing Himself to me. It sparked my curiosity and I wanted to discover more about this God who turned rivers to blood and parted the Red Sea. And I knew I could find the answers to my questions in the Bible. I got my hands on a bible we happened to have at my house and began to read it. I started at the book of Genesis and read, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," and I read on. I did okay for a while but, but I eventually lost interest.

There were other guiding lights along my path, as I look back. In my early teenage years, I had a few good friends, believe it or not, and two of those friends had fathers who were pastors. We didn't attend church when I was growing up, but my parents allowed me to spend the night in the homes of these friends on the weekends and, of course, I went to church with them on Sunday. I even joined one of these churches and sang in the choir! I was attending church and singing about God, yet I wasn't sure why! I knew it was the right thing to do, but nobody, to my recollection, had ever really explained the Gospel to me.

So, after a time, my fascination with religion and God changed to infatuation with boys. At the age of 16, I got very involved with a boy who was likely more smitten with my '67 Chevy Impala than he was with me, but things heated up between us and the world of drugs and partying and the things the world seems to thrive on became a way of life for me. Of course, my life up to that point wasn't free of misconduct. I was naughty, at times! Just ask my brother! But wanting to be cool and accepted by this boy made matters worse. We did end up getting married and were both working and living our lives together with our two children at the time.

Then one day, out of the blue, one of those friends whose father was a pastor called me up and invited me to another church. So, I thought "why not" and agreed to go. I liked what I had heard and decided to go back the next Sunday with my friend and her family.

Not long after I started going, I attended a Sunday night service. It was March 14, 1982. In the message the Pastor gave, he preached that all have sinned, but that God showed His love for us by sending His Son Jesus to die for us – to die for our sins!! He said that the payment for sin is death and hell, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. He used the word repent, which I had never heard before, and said you must repent of your sins and turn to Christ to be saved and that by confessing with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believing in your heart that

God raised Him from the dead that you would spend eternity in heaven with Him. Wow! What great news!

After preaching the message, the pastor asked if there was anyone there who did not know Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, and if there was anyone there who did not know for sure that they would go to heaven when they died. And I was thinking, "Well, that certainly applies to me! I definitely want to go to heaven", but even more than that, I realized that Christ died for me in a way that I had never understood before, in all my years! Seeds had been planted early in my life, but that night I truly understood and realized that Jesus loved me so much that he would give his life and die such a horrible death on a cross so that I could go to heaven. So, I prayed that night, asking Jesus to forgive me for my sins and thanked Him for dying for me. I asked Him to take control of my life and to help me to live for Him.

I couldn't wait to get home and tell my husband because I wanted him to go to heaven too! And after I told him what happened, I opened my bible and the first promise I read, was John 14:1 – 3

So that was the night that changed my life forever. All those years, God was drawing me to Himself, shining His light on my pathway. Since then, I have been learning to walk a new way, a way that I am STILL learning through the Bible. It hasn't always been an easy walk. I've fallen down a few times along the way, but God promised to never leave me nor forsake me, and He never has!

I came to realize over time that this was all God's doing, all God's plan, all by God's amazing grace. He directed my path to that one night, and He continues to light my way today – one day at a time.