



**LaToya Harding**

As I was brought up in a Christian home, going to church was always a part of my life. From the age of 4 I attended Sunday school once a week which I thoroughly enjoyed; I loved the teaching, the songs and also the fun! As I was growing up, my sister and I would often find ourselves singing Sunday school songs and hymns during the week, although it wasn't until the age of 10 that I truly understood and realised what I was singing, hearing and reading about.

From the age of 4 through to 11 I also attended a Catholic Primary School which revered Mary more than it did the Lord Jesus Christ, confusing my understanding about *our salvation through Jesus Christ*.

Even now, I can still vividly remember the 'Hail Mary's' at the school church and picture the 'dedicated' Catholics coming back from Mass every First Friday of the month. Each Mayday the school also conducted a May procession in which every girl had to carry a bouquet of flowers and lay it before the statue of Mary - one girl who had done her Catholic 'confirmation' was chosen to crown the statue, while we marched around it singing her praises!!! Thankfully, due to my upbringing at Sunday school, I always questioned the significance and truthfulness of all this and looking back I can definitely see the Lord's hand guiding me in the right direction.

As I turned 10, I thought at this point in my life that I was a Christian as I attended church, believed in Jesus Christ and was definitely going to heaven when I died because I was a 'good' person. *But I later learnt that doing these things doesn't make you a Christian!* That same year (spring of 2000), leaning on the kitchen work surface at home, I asked the Lord Jesus Christ to save me and forgive me of my sins!

**'For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.'** – Ephesians 2v8-9

In November of that year, aged 11, the Lord brought John and Donna into my life and since then I have seen my spiritual life grow and mature. I have learnt so much not only about the Scriptures but also a lot about life itself and I thank the Lord for our team and the work we are able to do together – *I couldn't ask for better friends!*

There was a rare quality I saw (and still see) in John and Donna that I loved, and this I yearned for in comparison to that which I saw in my school teachers, and even those at Sunday school. **The difference was that they were Bible-Believing Christians and had a love for the Lord and the lost!**

From then until now my life, goals and vision has changed and turned to the Lord Jesus Christ as I seek to serve Him and live for Him in all I do. **The things that this world offers are nothing compared to the Lord** and it is only He who truly satisfies.

Maybe you have a void in your life that needs filling? Turn to the Lord Jesus Christ **TODAY!**

I cannot thank Him enough for what He has done for me and for all the blessings He has bestowed upon me - **most of all I thank Him for saving me!** I want to be the best witness and ambassador I can be for the Lord no matter what the circumstance, and I aim to walk with Him as close and as deep as I can until His return! **Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**