

## **My Christian Testimony:**

Being a Christian has been the greatest joy of my entire life. How did I become one? It was through the witness of various Christian people, especially my mother and a Christian book, The Hiding Place. I once believed that a sinner was a murderer and that I was not that horrible, a person. However, I was very selfish and had selfish motives. I also had deep-rooted anger and didn't believe in the concept of forgiving people. One day, my mother witnessed to me. She told me that I was headed for Hell if I didn't ask God to forgive me of my sins. I was deeply puzzled and she asked me if I had hated people in my heart and I told her yes and asked her what the big deal about it was. Then she mentioned that spiritual hatred was the same as physical murder, (see Matt. 5:22 and I John 3:15). I became very angry with her because my belief was that a sinner is a horrible person, like a murderer. Later on, when I had cooled off in my room she approached me and asked me if I wanted to read a book, called The Hiding Place. That book would be the total turning point in my life, to becoming a Christian. I love to read books thanks to my mother instilling in her children to have a love of reading. The book was about a Dutch family that hid Jews during World War II. Corrie Ten Boom and her sister ended up in a concentration camp. Both suffered horribly for their Christian faith. I was deeply angered because the Nazis had treated human beings so cruelly. I felt that the Nazis should go to Hell!

The book continued to capture my attention and intrigued me until I came to the last chapter in the book. When Corrie Ten Boom talked about forgiveness, a former Nazi guard came up to her and asked her to forgive him for the cruelty she and her sister Betsy had suffered at the Ravensbrook concentration camp. Images of hatred rose up in Corrie's mind of how her sister had suffered in that horrible place. Could she forgive him? At this point, I threw down the book angry, because I refused to believe in forgiving people. However, when I read a book, I have to find out how it ends. I picked up the book again, wondering if Corrie would forgive this evil man. She asked God to help her forgive this man after 15 tries, to raise her hand to grasp his, in order to forgive him. She finally did! This totally shocked me. This incident caused me to reflect on what my mother had said to me: that I must ask God's forgiveness on his terms and that my own human goodness would never get me into Heaven, (Isaiah 64:6). I also realized if God could forgive a former Nazi guard, he would forgive me as well. So, in 1978, I asked God to forgive me and give me an unselfish heart instead of a selfish one. I realized later that my mother wounded me spiritually, according to Prov. 27:6, telling me the truth, instead of being my enemy.

I finally felt free at last! Changes came to my life immediately. I threw away my horror magazines, like Creepy, Eerie, Witch's Tales, Nightmare and others. I even poured bleach on them, so no one would want them. I started to care more about the souls of people than ever before. Christians and Christian groups like Campus Crusade for Christ and the Navigators helped me to grow spiritually. Luke 14:28 shows us that there is a cost to following Jesus, as well as II Tim.3:12. Yes, I've had spiritual attacks throughout the years, because I refuse to compromise my faith. I had to realize that my righteousness, (morals), are filthy rags to a Holy God, (Isaiah 64:6 and Job 14:4). I still struggle with anger and impatience, but the Holy Spirit helps me, to overcome these areas. At Bakersfield Junior College years ago, a Black guy

offered me marijuana, called Panama Gold, in popcorn bowl. I turned down his offer, immediately, nipping Satan's temptation in the bud! By his matchless grace, I've witnessed to people of various backgrounds: Catholics, Muslims, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, gays, witches and even a Satanist! Soulwinning is very important! Why? People die and go to Hell every day: 181 a minute, 1776 an hour and a million a week! Sad!

We must be true soulwinners, (Prov. 11:30 and Matt. 10:16), in these last days, before Jesus comes back. Mere head knowledge about God (James 2:19), will never save you, but heart knowledge will (Rom. 10:9). True peace will come only to your life when you accept salvation on his terms; not yours. Remember: you can have a ton of religion, but not an ounce of salvation! Only Jesus can fill the spiritual emptiness of your life. Amen!

**By: Leonard White Jr.**