

Testimony – Ethel Burden

I was introduced to Jesus Christ and accepted him at the early age of 4 years old. My parents were very instrumental as examples and taught me and my siblings about Jesus as far back as I can remember. I never saw my parents argue or quarrel so it was easy to learn the love of Jesus. I felt loved and it reflected in their unselfish giving and teaching us work ethics at an early age. I worked at a store owned by my parents from six years old through college age. It taught me commitment and "finishing the job, no matter what the odds. I sung in the church choir and enjoyed an enthusiastic and adventurous childhood.

I always remember loving Jesus. However, I did not know how to be filled with his power and depend on him totally. I always trusted my earthly parents, especially my dad to always be there to fight my battles. Even when I grew up, I always had a false security in me that my earthly dad and mother along with my siblings would always be there for me.

School became my way of life. I went to undergraduate college at home and graduated in three years. Thereafter, I went to graduate school and received by MBA by 23 years old. I cried so hard upon graduating because I knew I was facing a world that I was not ready for. School and its social life had become my "whole life". As a teenager, I started drifting from the Lord. So going to a secular college only caused the gap to widen.

I then moved to California where I was recruited after graduation and started a career in the "Aerospace Industry". My career in "Aerospace" grew upward with promotions; however, the void in my life grew larger and I rebelled and ended up in a hopeless situation that lead me back to the Lord. When I came back to the Lord, I was blessed with a beautiful and cherished gift - my son Anthony. I attended Second Baptist Church under Pastor Benjamin Carroll and begin to grow in the Lord. For the next 18 years, I studied under the dynamic leadership of Pastor/Dr. Clifford Grant Self at Jubilation Bible Fellowship, which later became Courageous Living Christian Church; located in Orange, CA. I worked in the Nursery, became the Children's Ministry Director and Chairperson of the Board. I learned how to release the power of God within me and overcame many strongholds in my life. I became faithful, committed, and submitted to Jesus Christ, and He became very real and personal in my life as my Savior and Lord.

In April 2001 Brand New Life Christian Center was borne, and started to grow immediately. Under the remarkable leadership of Pastors Chuck and Amy Battaglia, I am continuing to grow in the Lord to reach new levels. I became ordained by God and was honored to become an Associate Senior Pastors at Brand New Life during April 2002. Presently, I am assisting the senior pastors with administration and leadership responsibilities, teaching youth and adult bible classes, intercessory prayer and praying with others, and teaching and participating in church services held at convalescent home. I attend leadership and Healing School at Brand New Life Christian. Currently, I am leading one of the bible studies for the Boeing Christian Fellowship (BCF). I enjoy and look forward to this new opportunity. It is an honor to be a part of the BCF fellowship, which is making a positive witness of Jesus Christ at the work place. Prayers and many new friends in our Lord is so rewarding. My desire is to live victoriously in Christ through obedience and being led by the Holy Spirit. Everyone should have the opportunity to know Jesus Christ personally. I plan to continue to teach and be taught, conduct services, teach classes, and network with other believers so that we can become more effective as a unit in reaching more people with the GOOD NEWS (the Gospel of Jesus Christ). In my service to God, it brings such delight and joy to reach a soul with God's love. There is always room for one more. There is ever-lasting joy forever in people coming to know Jesus Christ as SAVIOR and LORD.