

TESTIMONY by Belinda

A new season of my life began with these words, "God, if you get me back safely on the ground, I'll not watch Oprah or Soap Operas again but instead... pray..." I didn't at all like to fly, and the family was just getting back from a trip to Japan. The year was 1989. Daughter Janet had just graduated from high school; son David had finished his sophomore year at Lipscomb; husband Austin was teaching at Georgetown College and for IBM on occasions. The IBM teaching assignment was the reason for the Japan trip. I had finished my 11th year of teaching 5th grade for the Scott Co, Ky public schools.

I didn't forget my words and have hopefully lived up to them. Even though I had been in church all my life, I had never had a regular Bible and prayer time. Was I in for an adventure! I started reading the Bible to find out what God was like and what He wanted from me (how to be). For a time I read the gospels over and over. When I finished John I just started back in Matthew again. I would not only read but tried to do what I read ... things like denying self, taking up my cross and following Jesus. I was being changed from the inside out.

I quit my teaching job after the 1989-90 school year. I had 2 years off and then took a different type of teaching job. I became Scott Co.'s homebound teacher. Wow, did I have experiences! Also I started visiting different churches in the area and eventually left our previous church where Austin had been a leader and where the children had grown up. I started going to church in Georgetown near our house.

The outward changes were in conjunction with the inward changes in me. I was looking for life and opportunities to serve and be obedient to Jesus' teachings. At this new church I found exactly that. Austin and I became youth sponsors, helping the youth pastor. Later David and wife Nancy moved to Georgetown and joined in this amazing work with the youth. It was glorious! There was a continuous youth revival where many Scott Co. teens came to worship and experience life transformations. There would be around 100 youth present at youth services! This was small town Georgetown. It was a dream come true for me after teaching in the public schools and seeing the great need for just this.

As time has gone on, my own transformation has been expressed in other, different ways. Life and commitment to God are constants and don't change. I'm thankful for the then and now, the old and new. Many, many good things have happened and continue to happen. I'm so happy to have learned of the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and to experience God's presence and His daily leading.

I haven't watched Oprah (I don't think it's on now.) Nor have I watched Soap Operas (Probably not much new has happened.) In contrast, a great deal of new has happened with me and others. When we get right down to it, it's funny how we know exactly what needs to be changed about our lives. It can be said in one short sentence, but the ramifications are great.