

# Sample Testimony

Use this as a guide for writing your testimony. Feel free to use some of the some phrases!

**Hello, my name is** Joe DeCitizen.

**I live in** the city of Dallas, Texas, in the USA.

**Before following Christ,** I tried to become happy by making money, going to parties, and living my own way. But these things only made me empty. I knew I was sinning against God.

**I realized I needed** for God to save me from my sins and to give me purpose and meaning in my life.

**(How I became a Christian)** then one day some friends showed me that the Bible says that I am a sinner and deserved the penalty of death, or separation from God forever. The Bible says that Jesus Christ died on the cross, taking the penalty for my sin. He was buried and resurrected from the dead to demonstrate His power over sin and death and to prove that He is God. The Bible says that by placing my faith in Him, I could have forgiveness of my sins and receive the gift of eternal life. I became a Christian by accepting what Jesus did for me by dying on the cross, and asking God to forgive me for my sins, and receiving the free gift of eternal life. So that day, I asked God to forgive all my sins through Jesus, and I put my trust in Jesus alone.

**Today my life as a Christian is** full of joy, peace and purpose. I know that God loves me and has forgiven me. Best of all, I know that I have eternal life with God.

**Would you like to know how you can have eternal life with God?**

## Key Points to Remember When Writing Your Testimony

**'Before following Christ':** Be general about your life before Christ. You don't want the hearer to dwell on your sins. Describing feelings is helpful (e.g. pain, loneliness, emptiness, uncertainty of eternity, etc) but avoid needless sin details. If you say, "I was a (thief / etc.)", then the hearer may identify broader impact. If you say, "I was rebellious and sinned all the time", then the hearer may identify by thinking, "I bet he/she was a drinker, like me." And finally, don't spend 5 minutes on sin versus only 30 seconds on salvation and your new life!

**(How I became a Christian):** Make sure this section gives the *gospel!* Your testimony may be the only chance for someone to hear it! *The gospel is:* we are sinners who are saved only when we put our **faith in Christ,** who died for our sins, was buried and raised. Scripture does not say that we were saved by 'walking the aisle', or "asking Jesus into our hearts' or other Christian-ese jargon. Be clear. Avoid 'church' terms.

**'Today my life as a Christian is':** This section should show benefits, not problems! Tell of the joy, peace and forgiveness Jesus gave you – instead of "since trusting Christ, I have had nothing but problems". If you really must mention the problems, a better approach would be, "after I trusted Christ, He has always given me strength and peace, even when I have problems." **But never dwell on the problems!**

# My Personal Testimony

(Please use this form if submitting a new or revised testimony)

- Your testimony is a **vital tool** that you will use as you share the gospel. Serve Healthcare International Ministries, Inc. needs you to write it **briefly** below so that it may be translated into the language for your campaign.
- See the “Sample Testimony” and instructions first (from page 3)
- **IMPORTANT!** Use only this form so the testimony will be an appropriate for practical campaign use.

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_

I live in \_\_\_\_\_

Before following Christ \_\_\_\_\_

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I realized I needed \_\_\_\_\_

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How I became a Christian – Include a BRIEF gospel \_\_\_\_\_

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Today my life as a Christian is \_\_\_\_\_

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Would you like to know how you can have eternal life with God?

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