

New Member Applicant Testimony Casey and Danielle Dwyer



Casey: I grew up in a broken and confused home. My parents divorced early in my childhood, and no part of my early years could be described as “Christian.” My mother’s addictions led to a very challenging upbringing for my two brothers and me, one in which I indulged in various lusts and was “darkened in understanding.” My life was defined by confusion, by grief, and by guilt. But when my father was converted through a taped Billy Graham crusade, my brothers and I were introduced to Christianity. I saw the Bible for the first time, and I was given eyes to see Jesus speaking to me through God’s Word. I cannot point to a specific moment, but I know that by the time I was a senior in high school I was a believer in Jesus. It was then that my life began to change from the inside out, and my inner desires were (and continue to be!) transformed into those of Jesus. I still live with grief, especially after my mother’s death in 2014, but now I see that through Christ alone I am redeemed, and that in his incarnation and crucifixion he takes on the world’s grief and through the resurrection brings healing and peace.

Danielle: I grew up in a Christian, church-going home. I “prayed the prayer” at a young age (maybe even multiple times, who knows). It wasn’t until the summer of 2007 when I was in 7th grade that a youth leader encouraged me to read the Bible and pray every day, even if it was a little bit. That was the beginning of slow spiritual growth and thought. Through reading Romans 8 I learned that “There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,” and that truth helped me to come to a fuller understanding of what it meant to have faith in Jesus. I grew in my faith with the help of a lot of very patient youth group leaders. It helped me a lot to see them live their lives in a Christ-like way, and teach me lessons I needed to learn. Now I try to show Jesus’ love to everyone, especially people who are hurting because Jesus showed me love by dying on the cross for me.

(Doug Cummings testimony on reverse side)

New Member Applicant Testimony Doug Cummings



I am nothing if not stubborn. Arrogant, even. I can't count the number of times God reached out a hand to me over the years. I either ignored Him or shrugged Him off, believing instead that my sinful life was more fun and, of course, under my complete control.

He kept working.

He saved me from serious injuries both as a cop (allowing me to walk away from a fifty mile-an-hour head-on crash during a pursuit, for one!) and as a journalist. Did I even say thanks? I doubt it. He also put a number of believers in my path. I listened politely, but I'd been confirmed by the Episcopalians as a kid so I already knew the gist of the message and, frankly, that "repentance" stuff sounded a little too Bible-thumperish to my cynical ears.

Ironically, it was a seriously fallen Christian woman who helped teach me to pray. And when my relationship with her soured, a lunch conversation with a Christian colleague showed me that I didn't have to get my life together in order to have a relationship with Jesus Christ...that, in fact, coming to Him broken was totally okay.

My ears finally heard; I accepted my salvation in the restaurant parking lot.

As for my stubbornness and need to always be in control?

Well, the Lord is still working with me on that whole "getting my life together" thing.

But every now and again, He lets me see a tiny ray of progress.

(Casey and Danielle Dwyer testimonies on reverse side)