

New Member Applicant Testimony
Edward Manzo



In 1993, I accepted the fact that God had been busily protecting me from serious harm for more than 40 years. He protected me from accidents with darts (one stuck between my eyes), falling at age 3 beneath a train stopped at a station (my mother was hysterical!), sundry misadventures in high school, a couple dozen motorcycle accidents during college, and other terrifying events. God had other plans for me: I was a marked man, though ignorant of it or unwilling to accept it at the time. Finally, a sequence of events provoked my decision. At a high school reunion, two of my classmates (out of a certain class of only 5 students) who had become ordained latched onto me to pull me into a pool with them, but I was not ready yet for my adult baptism and resisted. Later, on the same trip, I heard the personal testimony of an acclaimed classical guitarist and had a chance to speak with him at length about Christianity. There is more from that trip, but when I returned to Chicago, I wanted to and was ready to act on what had happened. I went through a program with an outreach group in downtown Chicago called the Christian Businessmen's Committee (CBMC). At the end of that program, I decided that I would have to be even more of a numbskull than I am to reject the incredible offer of salvation in Christ. I easily made that decision in and have wanted to grow in Christ ever since. God has been very patient, protective, and gracious toward me all along this journey.

(Jasmine Grady testimony on reverse side)

New Member Applicant Testimony
Jasmine Grady



One beautiful day at Edwards Air Force Base, California, a six-year old made an eternal decision in her bedroom. She prayed a simple prayer, "Dear Jesus, please come into my heart." That joyful moment was so exciting that she had to tell someone! My faith is defined as a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. What I appreciate most about the Christian experience are my brothers and sisters in Christ. I love people and enjoy being a part of a family. It is encouraging to share these family aspects with my friends. Having a community that is actively speaking the truth, praying, and being involved in my life helps me grow closer to Christ each day. In other words, I would describe my personal faith as a journey, not a destination. Once I understand one truth, God is teaching me and/or challenging me with a new truth.

(Edward Manzo testimony on reverse side)