Salvation Testimony – William Covington

I became an orphan at age 5 when my dad, who was my best friend whom I admired, died. I was raised by a widowed mother with four other siblings. My mother refused to take handouts from the government. I was raised up in the United Methodist Church and was made to attend Sunday school and church every week. I only went to church because of negative threats from my mother. The society I was raised in was a tight-knit, family-oriented community, although outsiders considered this location as one of the worst areas to live in Richmond County, NC. I came forth to a mourner's bench during one August revival meeting as a teenager seeking Christ. Nothing from the bible was discussed, while I was told I was saved and dipped in a fishing hole for baptism, I knew I was not saved. I joined the Air Force at age 17 with parental consent. Upon leaving home, I did not want anything to do with the church because I viewed Christians as hypocrites who would drink and party all week, yet on Sunday morning they would be the ones up-front praising and proclaiming Christ. I lived what I thought was a wild, unrestrained, jubilant military lifestyle "without limits," consisting of partying daily, filled with alcohol, illegal and/ or prescribed drugs, along with other wicked habits. I was involved in many circumstances where I could have easily died lost.

I was attracted to Christ in the Philippines through the persistent witness and testimony of Mr. Danny Corpu, who would come by my home every Saturday to open the bible, answer questions, and pray with me. Brother Danny was very patient with me as he would invite me to church, but I never went. This loving brother walked this path for over four months before I even attended church. When I started attending church, I knew something was missing in my life and I was not as happy as I thought I was. Why were these believers so filled with Christ and enjoying His teachings? I came to realize I didn't want to continue living life the way I was and the Holy Spirit started to work on me. I was a sinner (Romans 2:23), worthy of death (Romans 6:23), on my way to hell (Revelation 21:8) who must be born again (John: 3:3-5). For many Sunday's services during the altar call, I came forth confessing to God of my wicked state, seeking a change in my life. God performed a miracle in me as I believed that Jesus is my

redeemer, and I wholeheartedly placed my trust in Him for redemption from sin's curse. Following one church service, I felt the need to inform the pastor of my decision of becoming a believer. I knew God had already worked a miracle in my life before approaching the pastor about my salvation. The pastor invited Mr. Corpu along with me to a tiny room in this house that was converted to a church as we reviewed scripture after scripture after scripture with questions or comments directed towards me. I continued to praise and thank God for saving me. We began and ended this session in prayer.

I remember telling all my friends and co-workers what had occurred as I had become a believer. Acquaintances thought I was crazy, thinking I was just going through a new phase in life that would soon fade away. Eventually, many of my old friends disappeared that didn't discourage me because new and better believing friends came into my life to influence me on what was right. I did not always walk a straight line nor comply with biblical principles, but I sought the Lord's will in guiding me through some extremely challenging times in life. I was assigned to Hawaii in 1999, and the Holy Spirit worked tremendously in my life. I served and volunteered whenever an opportunity arose and worked diligently to serve Christ at Ohana Baptist Church in Honolulu for nearly five years. Upon assignment to Pope Air Force Base, I became a member of West Fayetteville Baptist Church and transferred my membership to Berean Baptist Church on Christmas Day in 2005. In Christ, I find myself growing in understanding of scripture as I study and read more. The Holy Spirit continues to draw me closer to Christ during my quiet time and church services. I make it a point to try to attend all church services when not hindered. I belong to a Tuesday night small group; usher during the 08:30 service; fill in to facilitate an adult Sunday school class when needed; zoom into a multi-denominational 6:00 a.m. prayer group on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; participate in a multi-denominational Friday night study group; and volunteer for other activities serving our church body.