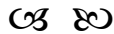


*My Sister,  
Rae*

*The Story of the  
Love of a Sister in Christ*

*by  
Lori Dickman*

## *“My Sister, Rae”*



In 1998, I wrote this book to address the stumbling blocks that my family had which prevented them from understanding and accepting the Gospel.

The title caught their attention and interest because they knew I did not have a ‘biological’ sister named Rae. As they read the book to find out who this “Rae” was and why I called her my “sister,” they were actually reading my testimony as I shared how my sister in Christ, (Rae), led me to the Lord.

My goal was to help my family members put aside every Catholic, Lutheran and religious stumbling block, understand their need to repent of their sin, and simply put their faith and trust in Christ Jesus.

The booklet reads as a story describing the events of my life and testimony of salvation. I pray that it may help you as you deal with family and friends who have not yet accepted Christ as their personal Savior!

*Lori Dickman*



# *My Sister, Rae*

*The Story of the  
Love of a Sister in  
Christ...*

*By Lori Dickman*

*Written in 1998*

## ***From A Woman's Heart***

♪ Almost twelve years ago, something happened to me that changed the rest of my life. For years I wondered what I was accomplishing that really made a difference for the future—for my husband, for my son, for my family or friends...

What could such an ordinary woman do that would possibly have an impact on a world as big as ours? What had I done in my life that truly mattered and what would make a difference for all of eternity? This was a very difficult question for me to ask—one which I did not really want to think about. But then something did happen in my life that had an eternal impact—not only for me, but for my family, friends and even strangers I would meet one day!

### ***SAVING GRACE***

In the spring of 1986, a young woman by the name of Rae took the Bible and showed me the saving grace of God. She showed me from His

Word how I could know for sure that I could have an eternal home in Heaven! She showed me in the Bible that eternal life is not based upon what I have done in my life. Eternal life is based upon what Jesus Christ has already done for me 2000 years ago on the cross of Calvary.

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.* (Ephesians 2:8-9)

## ***SCHOOLS OF LEARNING***

Throughout my life I had been through many different “schools” of learning. I had taken numerous tests—some of which I failed and found myself having to take over again. I made so many wrong decisions—all of which had consequences that I would have to live with and accept—good or bad. Life has so much to teach us about ourselves and about others, but mostly, life has so much to teach about God and **why** we are here in the day in which God chose to place us upon this earth.

The decisions I was making as a lost person were all based upon the influences of a lost and dying world. Those decisions were based on sinful attitudes, ideas and flesh—the root sin of which is **pride**.

***Pride** goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the*

*lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he. The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.*  
(Proverbs 16:18)

What was needed in my life was the wisdom and discernment of the Lord. With His guidance the decisions I would make would help me find *joy* and *wisdom*.

## *From God's Heart*

✧ The day that I was introduced to Jesus Christ, I began to realize that I had just found the answers to all of life's questions wrapped up in one very precious Book called the Bible.

I do not remember the exact date I got saved, but I do remember the circumstances as if it were just yesterday. On a Sunday in the early part of 1986, my husband and I had visited Central Baptist Church in Sioux City, Iowa. One evening of the following week, a young woman by the name of Rae, along with an older woman and a middle-aged man knocked on our door. Rae was the "spokesperson" for the threesome. I do not remember the other two saying more than "hello." Rae was a very sweet and confident young lady. I remember thinking that she exhibited something that I wished I "had," although I could not put my finger on what it was I saw in her at the moment.

Rae very graciously thanked us for attending her church and then proceeded to ask us some questions. My husband, Scott, was the first to respond. When Rae asked him if he knew he would go to Heaven when he died, Scott explained what had happened to him in a hospital a few years before when he learned he had cancer. His uncle talked to him about salvation, and afterwards, when Scott was all alone, he asked Jesus to come into his heart and save him. Sadly, the church at which Scott and I had been attending since we were married did not teach us how to lead people to the Lord.

### ***HOW CAN I KNOW FOR SURE?***

Then Rae turned to me and asked me, “Lori, if you were to die, do you know 100% that you would also go to Heaven?” As I looked in her eyes, I knew I had to be totally honest with myself and with her. I replied, “No, I don’t. How can I possibly know that for sure?” This is when Rae took the Bible and showed me the wonderful grace of Jesus Christ!

As I listened to her, it occurred to me that what I had known of God was all “head knowledge” and Rae was helping me to understand that “head knowledge” would send me to Hell. I must have an absolute “heart knowledge” of Jesus Christ as my **personal** Savior. I had grown up in church, I had learned the stories of Jesus, I **knew** that He had died on the cross for the sins of the world, **but** I had never given a thought to the fact that the Devil and



all of his imps also **know** what Jesus did for the world. The Devil's knowledge of Jesus and what He did for the world does **not** allow the Devil to go to Heaven! Knowledge of Jesus Christ is meaningless unless it is applied to the heart in a decision for a personal relationship with Him.

### ***GRACE: GOD'S UNMERITED FAVOR***

The struggle that I had as Rae spoke to me was the fact that I could not understand why God would love someone like me. How could He forgive me and all that I had done in such a short lifetime? I did not believe that I deserved God's forgiveness. Then Rae showed me His wonderful grace, love and mercy.

*That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:21)*

You see, even though I was a sinner and my sin deserved Hell, God's grace, which He freely gave to me (NO stipulations!), would **save** me from the Devil's Hell and take me to Heaven. I had to realize where I would end up if I continued to reject Jesus' salvation and live for "self," and I had to turn **to** Jesus **for** His salvation!

## ***God's Free Gift and Our Free Will***

☞ God has given everyone the opportunity to receive His free gift of salvation in His Son, Jesus. However, He has also given us a free will. We can each choose to accept this gift or to deny it. Denial of this gift and living for self and trying to obtain Heaven through dead “works” will only assure us of Hell.

### ***WHAT ARE “WORKS”?***

Salvation is not received through the proud, selfish works we try do in the Name of Jesus. I remember hoping that my “good works” would outweigh my “bad works” so that I could get to Heaven. Before I got saved I actually believed that my baptism, church attendance and communion were necessary in

order for me to go to Heaven one day. Rae helped me to understand that although baptism, church attendance and taking the Lord's Supper are good things to do, they do **not** assure anyone of salvation. Relying on these things would be relying on **my** works to get me to Heaven.

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

When God looks at our works, they are filthy as the leper's rags in His eyes.

*But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6)*

## ***CONDEMNATION OF WORKS***

If we relied on baptism, church attendance, and communion while we are on this earth to assure us of salvation, then why did Jesus have to come to earth and die such a horrible, cruel death on the cross for our sins? If our works could cover our sins, then the death of Jesus on the cross was in vain.

*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more than, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (Romans 5:8-9)*

I saw very clearly there was nothing I could do that would be great enough to take me to Heaven when I died. The **only** way to get to Heaven was to trust in Jesus Who had performed the only *work* that **could** help me: shedding His perfect and precious blood on the cross for a sinner such as I! In the Old Testament the Israelites sacrificed and shed the blood of an unblemished animal to cover their sins, but we (in the New Testament age) must apply the blood of the **only perfect sacrifice**, Jesus, to our sinful hearts.

### ***THE WAGE MUST BE PAID***

The Bible tells us there is a wage for our sin. *For the wages of sin is death...* (Romans 6:23a) Someone must pay for our sin. Either **I** would personally pay for my sin in Hell, or I could accept that free gift God has offered to all the world. However, it had to become a **personal** gift. I had to make a decision to personally accept Him just as I had personally accepted my husband at the altar the day I said, “I do” to him in marriage. If I continued to deny God’s gift (Jesus), I would be living for the Devil.

*And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath*

*life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. (1 John 5:11-13)*

## *An Eternal Decision*

✧ I chose to accept Jesus as my Savior! Who would want to go to Hell just because they were too proud to deny the fact they needed a Savior? I knew I desperately needed Him, and Rae had been the woman who showed me exactly how to find Him.

When Rae told me to pray and ask Jesus to save me, I was embarrassed. I had no idea **how** to pray a real prayer. All I had ever known were “vain repetitions” which I had learned at the churches I attended while growing up. My embarrassment about this did not bother Rae in the least. She explained to me that she would be very happy to help me pray. She knelt beside where I sat on the couch and helped me pray a prayer that went something like this: “Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I know that I deserve Hell. Please forgive me of my sin and come into my heart. I want you to be my Lord and Savior and take me to Heaven when I die. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.”

The following verse in the book of Romans sums up exactly what I did when I turned from my sin to the Savior. I confessed my sin to Jesus, I acknowledged that I had a need, I believed in my heart that He alone could and would save me, and I asked Him to take me to Heaven when I died.

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:9-10, 13)*

### ***AN ETERNAL PROMISE***

At the age of 28, I was saved! I trusted Jesus as my Savior and I knew I was on my way to Heaven because of what He had done for me. I trusted in His promise: ... *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)*

Salvation was immediate. God saved me just as I was—a sinner. Jesus came into my heart and covered my black sinful heart with His pure precious blood. Now, when God looks upon Lori Dickman, He does not see the sin that is there; He sees the pure blood of His Son that was applied to that sinful heart. Whenever the time comes that I should be taken home to Heaven, God will allow me to enter because He will see that the blood has been applied, the decision was made, and the promise remains.

## ***OVERWHELMING JOY AND PEACE***

The rest of Rae's visit at my home that evening is really a blur. I only remember the joy that completely filled me. How wonderful it has been to have the assurance of eternal life since that day. How wonderful it is to think of the mansion that Jesus is preparing just for me in Heaven. *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* (John 14:2-3)

The peace and the joy that He has given to me is beyond words. *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with **joy** unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.* (1 Peter 1:8-9)

I wonder where would I be today had Rae not been obedient to the Lord when He tells us to "go" and tell others about Him? Had she been disobedient, I might still be on my way to Hell. I praise God for Rae and for her obedience to Him, for her love and service to Him.



## *The Blessings of Obedience*

✧ A few weeks after I was saved, Scott and I also visited the Billy Sunday Tabernacle. It was there that Scott and I were baptized on March 15, 1986.

On one of our first visits to the Tabernacle, Pastor Hansen asked Scott, “Have you ever been scripturally baptized?” Scott replied, “Yes, when I was a baby, I was baptized.” And, of course, that was my response also. He asked where **infant** baptism was taught in the Bible!

Infant baptism is **not** in the Bible because infant baptism is **not** scriptural.

### *WHAT IS SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM?*

Jesus shows us exactly how we are to be baptized and He also explains in His Word exactly **when** we are to be baptized. Scriptural baptism is full

immersion as Jesus demonstrated in the river Jordan when John the Baptist baptized Him.

Baptism is a picture of salvation. *Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.* (Colossians 2:12) It pictures the death (when we died to the old self at salvation), the burial (when we go under the water), and the resurrection (when we rise up out of the water) of Jesus Christ. It is a picture of our new life as a Christian and it is performed publicly as it was done in Jesus' day. It shows that we are identifying with like-believers, with Christians.

Since infants do not understand salvation or their need for a Savior, infant baptism is not found anywhere in the Bible. In Acts 2:41 the Bible tells us, *Then they that gladly received his word* (I had gladly received Jesus as my Savior) *were baptized...* When a child comes to the age of accountability, he then can understand the Gospel and he can trust Jesus as His Savior. This age is different with every individual.

I remember when my son, Ryan, was six years old. He had been disobedient and while we were disciplining him, Scott also talked with him about salvation. Ryan decided that he should be saved; but not for the right reason. He still did not understand the Gospel or what he was praying about, he just thought if he prayed, his mom and dad would be happy! Two years later, he informed us that he

understood that he **needed** to be saved and why. He bowed his head and prayed right there with us and we could see the difference in his heart and in his life once he truly got saved!

Baptism is a humbling experience, but when Jesus went through the torture and suffering of the cross, He humbled Himself for us. I realized how much my Lord had done for me and I understood that standing before the church soaking wet in my baptism gown was **nothing** compared to His agony on my behalf.

**After salvation, the very first step of obedience for a new Christian is baptism!**

## ***God's Will for My Life***

✧ Since the moment I got saved, God has been showing me that I am to live my life for His glory and honor. By walking each day of my life in His will for me, I **can** and **will** have an eternal impact on my family, my friends and even the strangers I happen to meet.

Some of the ABC's of a young child's life are "reading, writing and arithmetic." As a new baby Christian, we are given some assignments to obey also. We are to read God's Word daily (that is how we learn about Him); we are to pray to Him daily (that is how we communicate and have fellowship with Him); and we are to tell others about Him daily (that is how we win the lost to the Lord!).

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that*

*good, and acceptable, and perfect, **will of God.*** (Romans 12:2)

God has a perfect will for each of us. There have been times when I have been out of God's will. At these times in my life, God has been displeased with me and the end result of my disobedience usually hurts me. As long as I stay in God's Word, study, pray and ask for His guidance, He will help me to follow the path He has set for my life. ...*Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.* (Colossians 4:17)

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.* (Proverbs 3:5-7)

Since my salvation, I have been taught to search for God's will for my life. By staying faithful to the House of God and by staying under God's umbrella of protection, I will also find His blessings and guidance for my life and for that of my family.

*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.* (Hebrews 10:28)

## ***How Can I Serve Others?***

✧ The first time I saw Rae was the evening she came to my home twelve years ago.

There is so much I have wanted to tell Rae about the last twelve years of which she had such an impact! I wondered if she would even remember me after so long. As I think back over the years, I realize that there are many people whom God allowed me to lead to Him that I have not been able to see or talk to since the day they got saved. I may not remember their faces, but in Heaven, we will meet again.

As I am finishing this booklet, I have made contact with a secretary at Central Baptist Church in Sioux City, Iowa, who told me how to get in touch with Rae. She informed me that Rae's last name is now "Wilson."

Rae contacted me back on December 11, 1997! What a joy to hear her voice and to speak to her once again! She married Mark Wilson in December of 1986 and she and her husband are missionaries to Guinea, West Africa. She and Mark are home on furlough at the time of this writing and, hopefully, I will be able to see her and her family while they are in the states.

Rae's obedience and service to God shows me how important it is to be a faithful soul winner. She may not have felt like coming out to visit me that evening long ago—but she did! For that, I will be eternally grateful to her.

Dear Lord, please help me to always follow the Biblical, soul-winning example of Rae and never stop showing others how they, too, can come to know you as their personal Savior!

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)*

Dear Friend,

Please consider what you have just read. If you were to die today, are you 100% sure that you would go to Heaven? You **can** know for sure, according to the Word of God.

If you...

1. Understand that you are a sinner. *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.* (Romans 3:23)

2. Understand that your sin has a penalty which must be paid—either by you for all of eternity in Hell; or by Jesus, Who died in your place on the cross of Calvary. *For the wages of sin is death...*(Romans 6:23a)

3. Understand that God has a free gift waiting **just for you!** *...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* (Romans 6:23b)

4. Understand that you, **personally**, need to accept His free gift of salvation in His Son, Jesus. *But as many as **received** him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God...* (John 1:12); and *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* (Romans 10:13)

Please, stop right now, bow your head, and ask Jesus to come into your heart and save you. It would mean a great deal to me if you would let me know that you have just trusted Christ as your Savior.



*Please fill out the information below and mail it to me at the address provided:*

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**Trust Jesus Christ as your Savior today...**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, asked Jesus Christ to save me on (date)\_\_\_\_\_. My address is: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail to:**

Attn: Lori Dickman  
Northwest Bible Baptist Church  
9N889 Nesler Road  
Elgin, IL 60124

I have some information I would like to share with you in your walk as a new Christian!

May God bless you! I trust you will live for the Lord and serve Him!

*In Christ,  
Lori*