

# Salvation Testimony

Julie Dick

I was born and raised in Southern California and had the privilege to be raised in a good family. My parents were great and raised me and my three older sisters in a loving home that blessed us and honored God. Our family attended Grace Community Church where they grew spiritually through the teaching ministry of John MacArthur. Growing up, volleyball was a really big part of my family, we were true volleyball fanatics. My mother attended pretty much every volleyball game and was very supportive of me and all my sister's love for the game.

As the years went by I started to become really good at volleyball and it became my passion and identity. Through my childhood and adolescence, I never felt like I was lonely or that I had some great problem that I needed Jesus to save me from. I respected my parent's conviction for church but I didn't really see the importance of it or the need for God in my life. I knew how to talk and act the part of a good Christian kid, but inside I knew it wasn't really who I was or what I wanted to be. I was pretty prideful and felt like I had it all together.

As I came to the end of my high school days and started to consider my college education, I wanted to go somewhere that had a good volleyball program and would allow me to excel as a student and an athlete. My choices for colleges became pretty narrow after my father told me that if I went to the Master's University, that he would completely cover my tuition. This option narrowed the playing field so I decided to look into The Master's University. The application process was a little challenging though because on one of the questions I had to explain how I had become a Christian. Since I knew in my heart that I wasn't a Christian, I lied and wrote down what I knew they wanted to hear. But this lie, is what began the process of me beginning to question myself in what I truly believed about God and what it meant to have real faith in Him.

I was able to sneak my way into Masters without being a real Christian. In the first couple months of school I made some really great friends. One in particular, took me under her wing and started to ask me some hard questions. I knew all the right answers from growing up in a good church, but she asked me questions like, "So is faith in Christ real to you?" "Do you really believe what you are saying?" It caused me to question myself and really examine what I believed in. I came to the gripping reality that I knew I was not on my way to heaven and that scared me. I realized that I needed a Savior to save me from the condemnation of my sin. What I struggled with the most though was the fear of what other people thought of me. I had many friends outside of Masters and even some inside that would scoff at me for changing and wanting to live for God. These friends were not the kind of friends that were going to push me closer to Jesus, so I knew that I would need to spend less time with them or even cut them off completely. When I decided to make this decision, I repented and committed my life fully to God.

After this salvation experience, I spent the next three years of college learning and growing closer in my relationship with God. I found true Christian friends who spurred me on to love Christ my Savior. During this time I met and married my best friend and husband, Dave Dick. We have four children and have had many wonderful ministry opportunities over the years to serve Christ together. I am so thankful to God for saving me and making me more like Christ. He has blessed my life with so much joy and happiness. To be His child and apart of His church family is truly an amazing privilege. To sing songs of praises to my God and tell the world how amazing He truly is, is an incredible joy and honor. I look forward to the day when I will see my God face to face and be with Him forever.