

# SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

On this trip, you may be given the opportunity to share your testimony, either during a home visit or during a church service. We believe writing out your testimony might be helpful for you as you prepare for the trip. We have provided a guide if you need an example of a sample testimony.

## SAMPLE TESTIMONY

*(Use this as a guide for writing your testimony.)*

**Hello, my name** is Joe DeCitizen.

**I live in** the city of (Your city and state), in the USA.

**Before following Christ**, I tried to become happy by making money, going to parties, and living my way. But these things only made me empty. I knew I was sinning against God.

**I realized I needed** for God to save me from my sins.

**(How I became a Christian)** Then some friends showed me that the Bible says that God loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross to pay for our sins. Jesus was buried, and after 3 days God raised Him from the dead. The Bible says that those who trust in Jesus to forgive their sins will have eternal life with God. So that day, I put my trust in Jesus alone to forgive me of my sins.

**Today my life as a Christian is** full of joy, peace, and purpose. I know that God loves me and has forgiven me. Best of all, I know that I have eternal life with God.

**Would you like to know how you can have eternal life with God?**

---

## Key Points to Remember when Writing Your Testimony

**'Before following Christ'**: Be *general* about your life before Christ. You don't want the hearer to dwell on your sins. Describing feelings is helpful (e.g., pain, loneliness, emptiness, uncertainty of eternity, etc.), but avoid needless sin details. If you say, "I was a [thief/etc.]" then the hearer may think, "I'm not *that* bad – I don't need Christ the way he or she does." General descriptions of sin have a broader impact. If you say, "I was rebellious and sinned all the time," then the hearer may identify by thinking, "I bet he or she was a drinker, like *me!*" And finally, don't spend 5 minutes on sin versus only 30 seconds on salvation and your new life!

**(How I became a Christian)**: Make sure this section gives the *gospel!* Your testimony may be the only chance for someone to hear it! *The gospel is*: we are sinners who are saved only when we put our *faith in Christ*. Who died for our sins, was buried, and raised. Scripture does *not* say that we were saved by 'walking the aisle', or 'asking Jesus into our hearts', or other Christian-ese jargon. Be clear. Avoid 'churchy' terms.

**'Today my life as a Christian is'**: This section should show benefits, not problems! Tell of the joy, peace, and forgiveness Jesus gave you – instead of "since trusting Christ, I have had nothing but problems". If you really must mention the problems, a better approach would be, "After I trusted Christ, He has always given me strength and peace, even when I have problems." But *never* dwell on the problems!

## WRITE YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

- Your testimony is a vital tool that you will use as you share the gospel. We need you to write it briefly below so that it may be translated into the language for your mission area.
- See the "SAMPLE TESTIMONY" and instructions first (from page 6).
- **IMPORTANT!** Use only this form so the testimony will be an appropriate length for practical mission use.

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_

I live in \_\_\_\_\_

Before following Christ,

---

---

---

---

I realized I needed

---

---

(How I became a Christian – include a BRIEF gospel)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Today my life as a Christian is

---

---

---

---