

## Rachel's Testimony

One of the most privileged things I've had in my life is to be brought up in a Christian family. I attended Croyland Church from birth. When I was six I went to Good News Club at Green Street with my brother and sister moving to Good News Hour at the Emmanuel centre when Good News Club closed. About six years ago my mum and dad left our old church and joined this church. At this stage I joined Livewires and later Freestyle and girl's bible study.

My Granddad died on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2004. At his thanksgiving service the minister spoke of my Granddad's love for Jesus and said that one of his greatest joys was to see two of his grand children baptised, my brother and sister. I was struck by this, I knew that I knew and loved Jesus but my grandfather did not know of it. I realised that I had to let people know of my passion for Christ but I wasn't quite ready for baptism yet. So I started to become excited and eager to learn God's word. My Granddad was so pleased to see my brother and sister baptised and I know when I see him in heaven he will just as pleased with me.

One of the most important stages of getting baptised for me was Church Camp 2006. Jonty spent a week teaching us God's word from the book of Acts. One of the most powerful talks for me was called 'The powerful Word - it hurts' Jonty taught from Acts ch2:vs22-41. The charge was (v36) "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." I saw from this that I had rejected Jesus and therefore he was crucified. The response to this was in verse 37 'When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"' I saw that I was one of those people who had sinned and I needed to do something. Verses 38-39 says 'Peter replied "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off- for all whom the Lord our God will call" The command was to turn to the King. Peter meant by 'far-off people' the generations to come and we are a generation to come. I felt that these verses were speaking to me and that I should repent and be baptised.

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to his people who believe and trust in him. I had rejected Jesus, I crucified him on that cross, and I put him to death. I

should have been in Jesus' place but instead he paid that price for me. I felt that this was the time to actually make a stand and ask more about being baptised.

Since then a few of the young people have been attending bible studies with Jonty to learn more of what it means to be a Christian and how to live like one. But we also have been learning more of what baptism means. One of the most amazing things I've learnt through these bible studies is how Jesus' baptism related to the cross. As I go down into the water it is a picture of God's judgement. Jesus was crucified and put under God's judgment but as I am lifted out of the water it symbolises me being cleansed by Jesus; just as Jesus was raised from the grave out of God's judgment. One of my favourite verses is *Genesis CH4 V7* 'but if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.' I am being baptised today to tell you that Jesus has taken the punishment I deserve and therefore I want to pledge my allegiance to him in this public way.