

## **Craig Marlatt Personal Testimony**

When I first came to know Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior I was serving my second prison term for illegal drug possession. It was in the spring of 1974 and I was just starting on a new prison sentence and feeling my life scraping the bottom of the barrel. At 26 years of age my life had come crashing down again and I really thought I would be better off dead than to keep going on living like I was.

For nearly a decade I had made my living with a traveling rock band doing the east coast nightclub circuit and of course, when I wasn't in jail or prison, and in keeping with that lifestyle, I stayed pretty high on drugs most of the time. My brother Terry and I worked together as musicians most of the time and he was in the same boat as me.

In truth, I thought I was a Christian even then. After all, I was born in America. Didn't that make me a Christian? I was baptized an Episcopalian as a young boy, and we even had a Holy Bible lying on the coffee table at home filled with pictures of Jesus and the apostles. Wasn't that proof positive of my faith? I believed that Jesus lived a perfect life and died on a cross, and on top of that I believed in and tried to practice The Golden Rule. Yes, I thought I was Christian because of these things, but in truth I was hopelessly lost.

Yes, it was true that my problems were many, but what did that have to do with my religion? Though I knew my life was empty and void, I didn't think my problems were spiritual. I thought religion and Jesus were all about what happens after you die? My problems all had to do with life here on earth, not heaven. Or so I thought.

It wasn't long after my conversion on that fateful spring morning in the prison chapel that I realized how wrong I had been all of my life. Jesus was not about dying, He was about living. He came to give me Life, not just to take me to heaven after I die. In fact, though I had been born in America and baptized, I wasn't likely to meet Jesus on a happy note if I were to die in the condition I was then in.

Though that was nearly thirty-five years ago, in my mind I can still see the spot where I was standing when Guy Purvis, the volunteer prison preacher that morning, invited me to come forward and surrender my life to Jesus Christ. Though I never saw or heard from him again, that day his message changed my life. Jesus filled my heart on April 28, 1974 and I have never felt empty again since.

It took a couple more years to finish my prison sentence and then God led me to a group of believers who met in a home group and they started me on the right path and helped me to find the solid Rock upon which to place my faith: The Word of God.

During the past three decades my life has changed tremendously and I've had many opportunities to share Christ with people both around the corner and around the world. I thank God daily for the gift of His Son and I live for the opportunity to pass that Gift on

to others who, just like me back in 1974, need a saving touch from the One who loves us all.

My wife Jolyn and I have been married since 1979 and we have four wonderful children and 8 grandchildren. We have ministered together in music ministry, preaching, evangelism, teaching, mission pioneering, pastoral ministry and conference speaking over the years and we thank God for His mercy to allow us to share the wonderful news of Christ with a world that more and more seems to be losing it's compass.

By the way, my brother Terry also is a Christian now and serving Christ faithfully in Michigan with his wife Laura and two children.

I pray that your visit to this site will be an enlightening experience for you and, if you have not met Jesus Christ, or if you just need prayer please don't hesitate to email me at [craig@craigmarlatt.org](mailto:craig@craigmarlatt.org)

I look forward to the opportunity of sharing with you the wonderful love of Jesus Christ which I discovered in a prison chapel in 1974.

God Bless all of you,

Craig Marlatt