



## Anya

It has been difficult to write this testimony because it requires a sit down in silence to reflect on the last 19 years of my life.

Lately I have been filled with so much noise from all the work that have to be accomplished, the great and small heartaches that need attention, the anxiety that needs to be battled and the many self-development themed thoughts crowding in my head as a result of being rooted in the words “always do the right thing.”

I have had to push myself towards the end of things that are not needed in the kingdom of God. I welcome struggles and pain with open arms knowing their conclusion will bring me growth and maturity in Christ. Each day I ask and thank God for undeserved grace because I know without it I will not be able to do anything that is required of me. I won't develop into the person I want to become and I wouldn't have a fulfilling life. In my every prayer I ask God to mould me into the woman he wants me to become.

When I look back at the last 19 years of my life, I am amazed at how God carefully directed each event leading up to where and who I am today. My parents shared the Gospel with me when I was about 7 years old. They exposed me to realities such as poverty and other forms of injustice and when I had questions they always answered the truth, never treating me as someone incapable of comprehension. Of course, they used words and concepts that I would understand. When I was 11, my parents sent me to my first youth camp and there I encountered the Lord with a magnitude great enough to spark a fire that burns within me 'til this day. At 13, I decided to follow the Lord, to never turn back and to be serious with my relationship with Him and I was baptized.

Right now I am in university studying Social Work and I am very thankful for the way I was raised because I find no difficulty in understanding realities of individuals and societies. I was taught the value and distinctiveness of every human. Understanding and helping them become functional members of society while having high quality of life has become one of my greatest passions.

God has always been faithful to me. He has gifted me with so many things such as wise and loving parents, irreplaceable siblings, essential and enjoyable experiences, trustworthy friends, a beautiful voice and a dependable brain.

He has called me again and again each time I forget to seek him and follow his voice. His love has always been present in my life enabling me to love as well.

I am praying about becoming a counsellor and a missionary in the future. I am also interested in working in an embassy after graduating for experience. I think this will also help me save financially for other future plans. But as the psalmist said: a man plans his ways but the Lord establishes his steps.



*Ariel and Anya*