

MESSAGE CHURCH

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To those who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ.

God Bless you, my full name is Emmersen Joshua Bourne. But I'm known to most as either Emm or Emmy and I want to share with you the grace of God in my life.

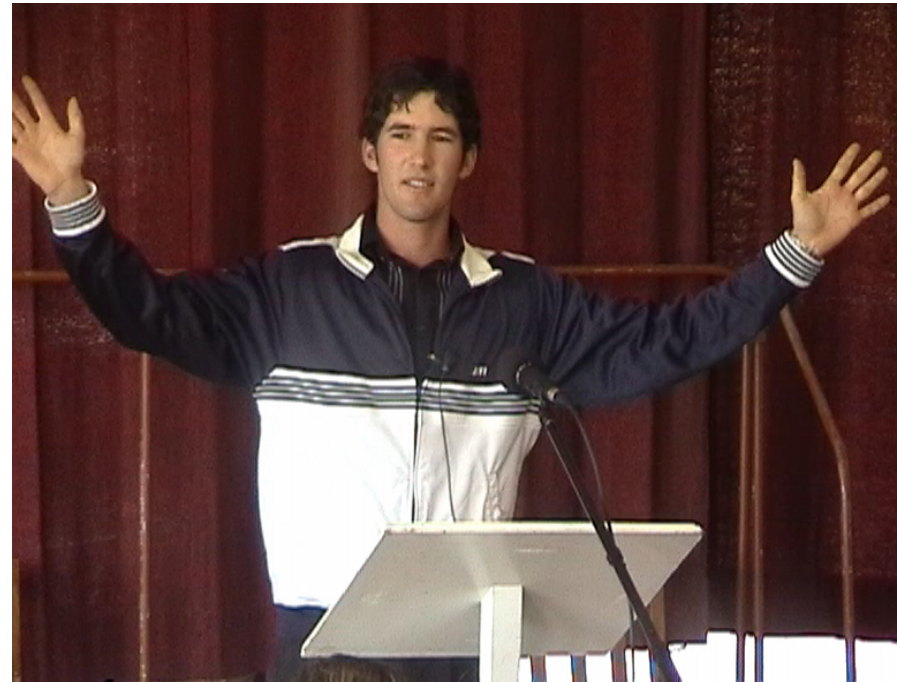
I'm twenty years of age and single. I'm the second eldest to my Brother Brendan (25) and have two younger siblings, Aleisha (3) and Ethen (9 months) to my fathers second wife. I was born on the 19/09/1985 in Stratford Taranaki New Zealand, and lived the first five years of my life in Eltham. I'm currently the only one serving the Lord in my immediate family.

I was brought up in a home that held good Christian value's and moral's, yet as a family we never attended church services. I can say from an early age I always believed there was a God.

At the age of five our family moved to New Plymouth forty minutes north of Eltham where I was enrolled at Mangorei School. Whilst at school at the age of ten I met a young man by the name of David Belgrave who had recently moved from Christchurch whom I made good friends with. David happened to be a Christian and during one of our conversations I asked him what to do in order to become a Christian. He said to be a Christian you've got to go to church.

Now to this point my understanding was very limited. I thought all that was needed to be a Christian was to believe that God was there, if you needed him you could just call out to him. But now to be a Christian not only do you have to believe that God is there, but you have to go to church also. Although these two things are vital in a Christian walk I later found that these two things alone would not be sufficient enough in order to become a Christian, and have salvation. I attended a couple services at the time but took no further steps.

Not Long after our family got relocated to the Philippines because of my fathers work. We stayed in San Lorenzo Village, Makati, Manila where I attended an International School. We stayed there



for one year where at the end of that year my parents went their separate ways. My father to Pakistan, my brother with him and Mum and I returned home to New Plymouth New Zealand.

I hadn't been home long when I was asked by a relative of mine to attend a church service where Bro Richard Oliver, now my faithful pastor, would be preaching. Baptism was apart of the message that morning because one of the congregation was being baptized that day.

What I heard being preached that morning was more than words, it was life, it was God. After service I went down to the river and got baptized along with Tony Watts in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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From there I had an experience which I had never had before, what they call the Joy of the Lord. Till that point in my life I don't think I had been so happy. I couldn't explain it I was just happy. I can remember ringing all my friends and telling them about Jesus and that I had been baptized in his name. I think they thought I was crazy. I was on fire for God for awhile but burnt out soon after. Coming through High School I was ashamed of the gospel (the good news) and scared to even mention the name of Jesus, I was backslidden.

From High School at the age of eighteen I stepped out into the workforce and worked for a company called Pipe Technologies. From about the beginning of my second year with the company I started getting desperate for God, desiring confirmation concerning my salvation.

It was getting towards the end of the year and I still hadn't had an answer from God when I attended a youth convention in Auckland. It was towards the end of the last service when the Holy Ghost fell on me. It was a really powerful experience different from the first, this time and I was crying. Under that anointing it felt like nothing of this world mattered anymore, things were unimportant; only Jesus was important!

Afterwards I realised the problem was, I had not fully surrendered my life to God and the things of this world were getting in the way. So I got on my knees and made it right and re-consecrated my life to God. I believe that's when I received the Holy Ghost.

The question that I had as a child had now been answered. To be a Christian it means to have Jesus on the inside of you, which comes by a born again experience, full surrender to God. From there it doesn't finish, I'm still pressing on, Moving with God. From that time I've no longer been ashamed of the gospel, no longer scared to mention the name of Jesus.

When I look back on my life, it wasn't me seeking God, it was God drawing me and using certain people to do it. It's an amazing thing to see the hand of God in your life.

When I needed to step higher in this Christian walk, it was God that would bring me to that place. When it come to a time where I needed more of God, it was God that brought me to a place where I could receive more of Himself.

It's God that places the desire in mans heart to seek him. Without that experience I recently had I don't believe I would have been able to surrender myself fully to God. It was God that brought me to a Place where I could receive his Holy Spirit; which the scripture says is the earnest of our inheritance.

In my experience and opinion there's nothing this world can offer to quench a thirsting soul, only God. He offers more than this world can offer, and that's eternal security. By God's grace I'm apart of His great plan of salvation and all the blessings that go with it.

Now I hold a title deed to a mansion that neither dust nor moth do corrupt, which by faith I'm a step closer to everyday.

This Christian walk is a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. This walk is not a bed of roses, it's a battle; but one worth fighting.

If you live for this world, the treasures of this world that you lay up will corrupt. But if you live for Jesus the treasures you lay up in heaven will be eternal. Before I met the Lord Jesus I was nothing, but now I know him, "He's my everything."

God Bless you.

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