

I became a Christian eight years ago at the age of 29. This was when a friend mirrored the life of Jesus to me through her actions and speech. I was living the hedonistic, high life where the focus was me. Her heart was focussed outwards as she lived under God's direction. I once heard a minister preach that "you may be the only bible a person reads". My friend through her actions brought Jesus into my life without me having to open the bible. This same friend it turns out had been praying for me all through my twenties when I was making wrong life style choices. It was also the same friend that was there for me when my first marriage broke down, and the same friend that encouraged me to join a church and enrol in a course that explored the Christian faith.

When I came to faith my life changed forever. It was a dramatic and sudden conversion and God entered my life through his spirit in a tangible way. Within months of becoming a Christian I felt a call to ministry. My own personal testimony of faith helps me to connect and witness to people about God's transforming love. "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to me" Acts 1:8.

It took a while for me to be able to fully respond to God's call. My husband fell ill with cancer and I was caring for him along with our toddler and new born baby. Life was challenging and hard but God was forever present. I can appreciate now this was a time of preparation for ministry. This and my role as a Speech and Language Therapist, working with people affected by cancer.

I feel God has given me the desire to minister to people where they are at in life; often out-with the church environment. I am excited about the changes that are happening within the Church of Scotland as they explore new ways/models of ministry/mission. I truly believe that the Church will flourish once again. It is very encouraging that the Church of Scotland is attracting more young people and woman into ministry. People often see life events/situations as barriers to responding to a call. I can testify that if you have been 'called,' God will remain faithful and will clear the path for you.

Two months ago, I put my faith in action. I gave up my 16-year career (and salary!) and became a full-time student of Word and Sacrament Ministry. Every day is an exciting new chapter!