

THE TESTIMONY OF TED SALMOND
Meeting with the folk at the Hebron Gospel Hall Booval
Queensland Australia

Before Ted begins his testimony, he wishes everyone to realize that the Glory must be given to the Lord who saved his soul, and not to admire the testimony as he is only a sinner saved by the Grace of the Lord and to Him only is the Glory and praise to be given.

All sin is sin no matter what the size, and it matters little to the Lord for all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God. Every conversion is a miracle, and each requires conviction of the soul. When we consider what takes place in changing a soul from darkness into light, the power required by the Spirit of God to create such a change can only be described as before, a miracle.

At an early age, Ted's desire was to go to sea as his forefathers were high ranking men in the Air Force and Navy. With such a background, his first experience was a Training Ship with all its traumas and harsh discipline. The beatings and whippings were numerous. Then onto an old Merchant Ship originally Italian built he believes in about 1925 where the crew all lived in the forepart of the ship. Ted tries to refrain from using nautical terms to avoid confusing the reader.

Please try to imagine a storm coming. All port holes must be closed and all ventilators above leading into the quarters had to be closed as well as they drew air in from above and meant water would also come in if they were left open. Lastly, the door to the area would also be closed

The men who were off duty would be smoking, some with a pipe, one loved his cigar and another liked his little opium. Ted knows that you will find that hard to imagine. During a particular storm when he and the crew doubted if the ship would survive, his Mother was told that he had been drowned at sea. The crew came into their quarters soaked and often with sea boots full of water and lay down on their bunks exhausted. This meant that their beds were wet and they would have a maximum of an hour's rest. Imagine the condition in their quarters.

After a few years at sea he became a third officer which is known as a third mate. All this began at a very early age until he came ashore. His wonderful changed life began at the age of 27.

After the war ended, he came to Australia and later to Brisbane and was of course a hardened sailor. It was here in Brisbane that he leaned against a wall listening to the singing of hymns at an open air meeting. He was not interested in what was being said and was leaning against the wall because the drink was affecting his walking. Out of the coffee shop came a woman with a cup of coffee, three in fact as he found out later, trying to sober him up to listen to the Gospel. What an opportunity, but at that time it was of no avail.

Much later at his place of employment, he was befriended by a Christian man who insisted on telling him of a padre who used to be too drunk to finish the prayers, plus many other examples of what he realizes now as false Christians, and he judged all Christians as being the same.

Ted asked this man one day to take him to church as he called it. Can you imagine his friend's surprise? Ted went and to his amazement who should be preaching the Gospel but none other than a sea captain. This took place in Brisbane at the Annerley Gospel Hall. To think he could never remember hearing the Gospel and never having read a Bible, he knew absolutely nothing of Christ or the Word. Neither did he want to as he was quite happy the way he was living.

Ted lived in Kings Cross in Sydney prior to coming to Brisbane and had all his belongings thrown out onto the footpath because he had not paid his rent for three weeks. He had lost his material possessions

and a place to stay. He found Hyde Park to be a great place to sleep and rose at about 4 am to shower under the fountain then dried himself using his singlet. At that time, there were many others in the same situation.

When he arrived in this country legally with 10 pounds in his pocket, having no job, his money disappeared pretty quickly. Finding a sixpence or 5cents in his pocket, he tossed it to see whether to have a drink or an apple. No matter which way the coin fell, he chose a drink.

Returning now to his visit to Annerley Gospel Hall, he could not get away quick enough because he wanted a smoke. Ted was invited again, and only the Lord drew him to return. Some times when they called to take him to the meeting, he was too drunk to go and he hid in the corner with the lights out. When they knocked he never said a word. Ted was now twenty-seven and had lived a very full life as he had gone to sea at a very early age.

After about three weeks and being the only stranger at the meeting, the Lord started His work in him. On taking him home one night the captain asked him if he was saved. By then he knew what that meant, so just to keep them happy he said “yes”. Well they stopped the car immediately and prayed and sang, then proceeded to take him to his flat. What a lie he had told! The whole episode really upset him so he went for a walk over the Storey Bridge. It was now after midnight and he returned to the flat repeating over and over “What has this got to do with me”? Then the Lord brought before him a hymn that they had sung. “Take me as I am my only plea Christ died for me, take me as I am”. He then lay flat on the floor in his little room and asked the Lord to save him and to forgive him of so many sins. That was about 2am and he lay there until daybreak.

Ted has now known the Lord as his Saviour for nearly fifty years as he is now 85. He is still learning more about the Lord every day, and has done from the time of his salvation. Ted didn't hand him his old tattered garments but threw them away, and He gave him a robe of pure white.

Praise His name.

Ted says,

“He is mine because of the blood He shed for me at Calvary. He rose again, and I asked Him to forgive me of my many sins, which He has been faithful in doing. To Him be the glory”.