

President Pastor Maria de Lourdes Bonfim

A brief testimony about me

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

God has done wonders in my life. Today, I'm sure; I am a new person, thanks to the mercy of God!

I was born in a Catholic home. I was baptized; I made my First Communion, Confirmation. My stepmother, Conceição Pereira da Silva, participated actively in church activities. I studied at a boarding school for nuns (Sisters Carmelites) in the city of Anápolis in Brazil. As an adult, through ignorance and spiritual blindness, I served as a medium in a spiritualist center of umbanda, at the same city. After so much suffering, God showed me he loved me. With his grace and his mercy, He gave me an encounter with Jesus Christ, who changed my life forever. All the bondages that the devil had made were broken by the power of God and then a great miracle happened in my life.

The Holy Bible tells the story of a woman who suffered from blood flow and she had an encounter with Jesus: *"For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole."* Matthew 9:21 (KJV)

Like that woman, I was suffering, with no hope of cure, just as this woman heard about Jesus. The Lord gave my heart the power and grace of the merciful God. Then, it began to sprout faith and hope in my heart and I had an encounter with Jesus Christ. I also found obstacles. There were many who wanted me to continue that way and there were few who wanted to get rid of all traps of the enemy. But, God is Almighty and Merciful, greater than everything and everyone!

There is also in the Holy Bible the story of a young girl in the book of Acts 16:16-18: *"¹⁶Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. ¹⁷This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."¹⁸And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly*

annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour." (NKJV)

The devil tempts all forms to tear our dignity and lashes with lies and slander. He wants to rope us in the mud, in a prison full of feelings of guilt and shame. He tries not to hold us reach our achievements. But God is in control. God extends his hands and we become new creatures. God speaks to us through his Word, in John 16:33: *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world". (KJV)*

So, today I am a new person, because I have Jesus Christ in my life. I opened the door to my heart and Jesus came. Now, I know the truth which liberates us, I'm sure that *"...Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life." John 14:6*

The Bible says: *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6 (KJV)*