

# Personal Testimony

Your personal testimony is a very important tool you have as a Christian. In past missions, thousands have come to know Christ through the sharing of participants' written testimonies. Writing your personal testimony is a challenge that will require prayer for it to be as effective as you and the Lord would desire.

The staff of Harvest North America has had the privilege to see the simple process of sharing "Your Story" work around the world. The testimony form is a combination of these many years of experience in over 60 different countries. Your personal testimony, when used with the question and answer "plan of salvation," has worked in every culture, including the USA. You will learn how to effectively use the testimony form to witness during your preparation and orientation training.

On the opposite side of this page is a suggested outline. We invite you to use this format. There are two topics, which need some explanation. The first is the greeting and purpose of visit. The greeting can be used to express your joy and excitement of visiting their city. Also, you might include that you have come at the invitation of a local Church and explain the purpose of your visit.

The second area of explanation is the invitation. At the close of your testimony, you need to include some way for the reader to respond. Invite them to believe so that they can spend eternity with God in heaven when they die. Conclude by saying "May I ask you a few questions?"

Your testimony needs to be less than 400 words in length. If you have e-mail, we prefer you e-mail your testimony to your Enlistment/Prayer Coordinator as an attachment in ANY Word document. If it is hand written it must be in **black ink**. You may also type it and give it to your Enlistment/Prayer Coordinator. Please save a copy for your file. You will need it when you are on the mission.

## **Other Suggestions For Writing Your Testimony**

- In writing your testimony, share your experience with Christ in a warm, personal, "non-technical" way. **Please use scripture**, and please include the scripture reference (e.g., "Jesus wept." John 11:35.)
- Relate your experience and the sharing of scriptures as if that person has never heard the name of Jesus or the plan of salvation.
- Be positive, enthusiastic, and joyful. Share the positive benefits of your Christian life. **Do not dwell on those times you failed God.**
- Avoid religious terms such as are commonly used in religious or church life. Many people you witness to, have never read the Bible or visited a church. Try to use simple language that can be understood by everyone.

**If possible e-mail your testimony to Enlistment/Prayer Coordinator**

# Personal Testimony

Please keep the testimony under *400 WORDS*. Type (double-spaced), or neatly Print with Black Ink (do not use blue ink or pencil). **If you can e-mail your testimony to your Enlistment/Prayer Coordinator, it would be helpful.**

(Introduction-name, city and state of residence) \_\_\_\_\_

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(Greeting and purpose of visit) \_\_\_\_\_

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(My life before following Christ) \_\_\_\_\_

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(How I realized I was lost) \_\_\_\_\_

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(How I became a Christian with the gospel message or scripture \_\_\_\_\_

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(What being a Christian means to me in my day-to-day life) \_\_\_\_\_

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(Invitation) \_\_\_\_\_

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