



Many Monday nights long ago in February, my uncle, who was a doctor, came to our home and delivered me. My dad and mother went to church regularly and took my brother and me. We all sang in the choirs – one of my first songs was Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam. I accepted Jesus as my Savior when I was 12; and the preacher was a big man. I felt safe when I was immersed by him.

My really growing in and for the Lord started when I prayed the sinner's prayer at a Christian women's club in June of 1975. Sure, I had been disobedient, but Jesus Christ died for my sins and He forgives me and so I realized at a meeting of the Christian Women's Club that I wanted Him to be my Lord for as long as I live.

The lady's talk convicted me that I was a sinner – I had never heard it before. It seemed I hadn't received the personal, convicting claims of Christ until then in my church life; I had never heard it before then.

When the Billy Graham Crusade was coming to Winchester, the Methodist minister here in town came to me and asked me to assemble a choir to sing for that event. Of course I did, and I also sang in the large assembled choir. The pastor's wife from the Winchester Nazarene church sang along side of me and I told her about the Christian Women's Club. After that, I became instrumental in getting the club started in Winchester.

Disobedience? Having a very strict mother, I disobeyed, riding my bicycle back and forth to Winchester from Union City 4 times. My friend and I rode on one road and our parents would come after us on the other. I went places my mother never knew about, but nothing really serious.

My husband, Charles, was an elder in the church before I became one. When I was asked to serve as an elder, I questioned, "a woman elder?!" Reverend Case was the pastor at the Methodist church at that time, so I discussed it with his wife, Ruth. She told me that if the church felt I was worthy to be chosen, she felt that a woman who followed the Lord and who was Godly could become an elder. So I did. Charles and I served together from 1975 until he was no longer able. After that, for 7 years I went to a Bible Study Fellowship in Richmond and completed the 7 year course. So you see, God keeps growing me!

I've done a lot in my walk in life whenever the Holy Spirit led, but I can't remember it all! I've witnessed about my faith mostly by singing solos at church, at funerals, etc.

"This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long!"

*Janet Blackmore*