

## **Testimony of Rachael West**

I was raised in the most Godly, Christian home since birth. My dad was a preacher, dean of a Bible college, chaplain and a man who led many to Christ. My mom was right alongside him serving where she could. I made professions of faith as a young child, but didn't fully understand what salvation was. When I was 11 my dad passed away from ALS. A few months after his passing our church was having a camp meeting. Two blind women were singing and giving their testimonies, I honestly can't remember what they even said, but God woke me up spiritually and I knew I was lost and I knew I would never see my dad again. I went to my mom and told her I had to get saved. She took me to the altar and said, "You know what to do, get going!" I prayed then and the next Sunday I was baptized. Around the same time that I got saved my mom remarried an evangelist from our church. From 11 years old till I was 19 we traveled around America and many other countries. My dad would preach, and my sisters and I would sing. At 19 I married a man who everyone believed to be an amazing, Christian man. But within a couple weeks of our marriage he changed and the following 13 years were some of the darkest I've been through. I experienced all forms of abuse from my husband for years and time after time forgave his infidelity in order to keep our family together. After 13 years, he left me with 4 small children. During that time I knew cuddling close to God was the only way to make it through! I kept attending the church I grew up in, and served as a Sunday school teacher, sang and was part of the women's jail ministry. Not long after my divorce I was introduced to a man, the brother of a friend of 10 years. She tried playing matchmaker, and he kept asking for a date....I kept refusing because I had no intention or interest in ever remarrying, just me and my babies and I was good with that. After a few weeks of his persistence i finally gave in, and on that date we both realized that this was it, we were meant to be together. A year later we married and my mind is blown away every day by the man God has given me! Bradford has taken my 4 children as his own and we have been blessed with a 5th child. We have been members of another church in the area, serving any way we could there. But our family needed more, more in depth study of the Bible and strong preaching. We visited a few other churches but it never felt right. Then our oldest daughter mentioned visiting Lighthouse with one of her friends and asked us to go with her. Our first service at Lighthouse we knew this was our home. Our children have been loving AWANA and Sunday school, and Brad and I are just soaking in the teaching and preaching. We cannot wait to get plugged in and do what we can in the church!