

## My Testimony

By: Yazmyn Butcher

When I was a baby I was taken away from my mom. After that my grandma took me and my siblings in. My grandma has done so much for me and my siblings; she fed us, gave us a home, and had clothes for us. And for all that I thank God that He let me and my siblings stay with family and I am thankful for all He has done for me in the past. My mom was not in my life very much but I still had my siblings, my grandma, and God in my life. When my mom was not there for me my grandma and God were there whenever I needed them. I am thankful for everything God has done for me and my family. When I was at Lake Beauty Bible Camp last summer I was going through a really tough time. I did not really have as much faith as I used to have, but then at the end I got a lot closer to God. I remember basically having an emotional breakdown. There was a message that they did for the girls only and I was crying most of the time during that message. They were talking about how God forgives us no matter what and He will always be there for us. It was at that point that I started to cry and I didn't really know why. The girls who were in my cabin were trying to help me, but I still couldn't stop crying and I did not really want to be around people. I had read part of the Bible before talking about these same things and the emotional breakdown had never happened, but at camp it did. I guess it just hit me hard realizing that God is always with me and will always help me through the tough times.

Middle school was kind of weird because in elementary everyone is friends, but then in middle school everyone forms groups of friends instead. For the most part me and my friends stuck together and stayed in one group, but as time went on some other students came into our group but then would leave. By the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade there had been several people who had been our friends but were not our friends anymore, and that made things awkward afterwards. I would see people and try to talk with them but now they felt more like acquaintances than friends.

This year I am trying to have a closer and better relationship with God. But it has been tough this year with everything that has been happening. My mom started to drink again and then she bought a gun. And I am disappointed in her because she said that she would try and stop drinking. Then my friend tried to kill herself and Child Protective Services came to her house to talk to her and her brother, and now she does not know if she will be getting taken away from her mother and father. Then there is the COVID-19 and the stay-at-home order. But we have been having fun at the house, or at least trying to. We do have a trampoline, a mini bike, and a go kart to keep us busy. And at least I have my family with me and God by my side. God let COVID-19 come into the world for a reason and He will help us get through it, He always has a plan for us.

In the future I want to grow in my relationship with God even more. I want to tell people my story and let God guide my way for me. I want God to choose a job for me that will help me get more people to follow Him, believe in Him, and let them know that He is real and wants a relationship with them. I want to go on mission trips and help people get closer to God. I want to help people get closer to God and to Jesus. I want to let them know that God will help them and lead them through the tough and hard times, just like He has for me.