


**The Last surviving matriarch of the respected CM's Y.S. Family of Andhra Pradesh - DECEIVED BY FALSE CHRISTIANITY FOR 78 YEARS - Now gloriously converted by TRUE faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ!**



### *The Testimony of S. Kamalamma*

I am the youngest child of late Sri. S. Venkata Reddy of Pulivendula of Kadapa district in Andhra Pradesh, India. My father was a staunch Hindu and he showed much interest in praising the heathen god, Venkateswara. He used to lead the youth in singing praises to him. But he had no real peace. He read many religious books. He observed the Hindu priests being covetous, and not loving one another. One of the Hindu priests was very unkind to his own brother in distributing the property. My father was dissatisfied about them.

Then, at God's providence, some of the men of the living God happened to meet him and they preached the gospel, how that Christ came into this world and shed His precious blood for the sake of sinners. They preached that one should love his neighbor as himself, and should pray for those that do harm to him. My father's eyes were opened when he started reading the Holy Bible. He started hating the Hindu religion and he was attracted by the behavior of the Living God's people. Many of them visited him often. They also told him that God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. My father was very much attracted to Christianity.

My father discussed the things that were in his mind with the immediate members of his family, and convinced them about his desire to get baptized. When he felt that there was no objection from them, he invited God's servants to do the baptism. He also invited his relatives and friends to attend the function. There was much opposition from them all, saying that Christianity is the religion of the low caste people, and if he at all was going to become a Christian, they would forsake him, and would not come to his house or invite him to their houses. My father was firm. He said that Christ has sacrificed His life and died on the cross for the sake of sinners, and he would not go back, even if he faced hardship or opposition.

In 1925, my father, my mother, my father's mother, his sister, his three sons and two daughters who were born to him by that time, got baptized, thirteen years before I was born. I am glad to think that I was not born in a family who worshipped idols. Afterwards five more children, (two sons and three daughters), were born and I happened to be the youngest of the lot.

After conversion, my father proved himself to be an authentic Christian. Unlike the false Christians everywhere, my father counted the cost of following Christ. He took up his cross and followed Christ despite the threats of many people, including relatives and prominent powerful people! After conversion, my father was never interested in Politics. He never wished to be a leader, having earthly fame and power in his hands. He asked his children also not to entertain Politics. He never wanted to be exalted by men at any cost.

On one occasion, he built a big children's ward in Campbell Mission Hospital, Jammalamedugu, from the profit he got from contract work. When that ward got inaugurated, there was going to be a public meeting in which they wanted to honor my father for his generosity, but he bluntly refused to be honored. He said, "If at all I am going to be honored, I am not going to attend that meeting." So they stopped that idea.

About his charitable nature, he wanted to take care of a beggar woman who was blind till her death. Of course my mother cooperated with all his care for the needy. He advised us, his children, to be charitable in doing good to all men, especially unto God's servants. As the woman with the alabaster box of very precious ointment who poured it out and anointed the Lord Jesus, my father asked his children to follow her example – to pour out everything not thinking about the cost. My father used to say, wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished and he that gathers by labor shall increase. He always mentioned how for the sake of 30 pieces of silver, Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus with a kiss in spite of being one among his 12 disciples. He advised us that we should not entertain satanic attitude, that we should be loyal and trustworthy everywhere.

As for himself, he tried his best to fear the Lord, to be perfect in every good work, well pleasing in God's sight. On the whole we respected him as a godly person, rather than an earthly father. Even though my mother was illiterate, she had good preaching from my father about the Gospel. While she was dying, she shared the Gospel zealously to every patient in the General Ward. As my Mother took her final breath, she shouted loudly with all her strength, "The LORD, the LORD Jehovah... He is the only true God". I am blessed to have a mother who finished her testimony in this world in strong faith and conviction!

We, the children, had very good religious habits under the guidance of my father. Going to Church regularly, having family prayers in the evenings, singing in praise of Him, giving to the poor and needy, giving offerings to the Church, inviting God's people over for prayer, and also following the scriptures, like Galatians 6:6, "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things"; not uttering bad words, reading the Bible, and praying.

However, even with this upbringing, I wasn't converted to Christ in truth. When I was seventeen years old, I attended a religious meeting. After the preaching was over, the speaker told the audience that if anybody was convinced by the preaching, they should come forward to the stage. I was among them that went forward, and the preacher prayed for us, putting his hands on our heads. I was deceived to think that I was saved. There was no real change in my life. I was not a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17). I loved my life and did what was good in my sight, but not what was good in God's sight. I didn't have a born again experience (John 3:3, 5). In spite of my wickedness, God's grace was towards me throughout my life.

I was married on the 12th of May, 1958. My husband was God's child. He had good habits, but I was a stumbling block of iniquity in his life. I am sorry to think that I led my husband astray. I gave birth to three children, Smith, Christopher, and Mercy. I was religious, but not spiritual. We had family prayer regularly and we were going to Church regularly.

My father was very good in providing good education for all his children, especially his daughters. My eldest sister worked in the Education Department, and retired as a District Education Officer. My second eldest sister graduated in Medicine, and completed her P.G. in London, in Gynecology. My third sister graduated in Nursing, and the fourth sister did M.B.B.S; D.G.O., and was a medical officer in Alice Springs Mission Hospital, Australia. I did my P.G. in English, and also my Bachelor of Education. Among my brothers, only one of them did his P.G. in Ophthalmology. To show gratitude to my father, all of us contributed funds for the building of a college for girls in our hometown, naming the college after him. I happened to work as the principal of the college for twelve years after my retirement from Government Service.

I used to invite my Church pastors to my residence, showing them hospitality and giving them money occasionally. They never asked me to strive for salvation or humble myself before God (Luke 13:23-30). Nobody ever reproved me of my sin. After 25 years of being married, my husband had a heart attack. After receiving treatment in ICU at Vellore Christian Medical College Hospital for one week my husband died, leaving me a widow at the age of 45. I am sorry to think that I was not obedient to my husband

many times. I appeared to be a Christian, but I did not have the Spirit of God in me. I didn't preach the gospel to my own children (Matt. 10:32-33). I didn't bring up my children in the fear of the Lord. I always wanted false peace (Jer. 6:13-15). I tried to please everybody (John 5:44, Gal. 1:10). I wanted to be happy (Luke 6:24-25). I loved myself and did not fear God (John 12:25).

As for myself, I had a vain glory in my previous Church (Church of South India), being elected as one of the twelve deacons, (Elders in the Church), a member of Rayalaseema Diocese, a treasurer or secretary of women's fellowship, and leading the worship in the Church. I was always ready to offer hospitality to God's people and all of these things made me feel proud (Matt. 6:1). I didn't realize that all of my deeds done in pride would send me to hell. I thought that everything was okay with me.

I was very close to one of my sisters, named Rajamma David. I observed her always praying on her knees. Many a time I was convicted by her prayerful attitude and her simplicity. Her meekness, her love for God's servants, her attention and care for the poor and needy widows. I used to respect and regard her, but as for me, I didn't want to be like her. I always wanted to lead an easy life. I happened to travel many times with her, even to the U.S.A to visit our children. She was sober. She never liked to waste her time doing worldly things. She never spent her money on herself, she never cared for worldly happiness. She was always referring to Acts 12:5 and Matthew 25:3. "Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the Church unto God for him." (Acts 12:5). "They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them." (Matthew 25:3). She would preach that people need to be prayerful, to be ready for God's call.

In 2016, I happened to visit Wells, Texas, USA, where my only granddaughter, Preethi, and her husband, brother Sean Morris, lived. Brother Sean Morris is one of the three senior pastors in the Church of Wells. As soon as Preethi saw me, the first question she asked me was, "Are you born again Kamalavva?". She also proclaimed that I was going to hell, and I was a great sinner, and if I didn't repent, God would send me to the place of fire, hell. I didn't expect my granddaughter to be so bold and talk to me so severely. The brothers and sisters in the Church of Wells prayed for my conversion with burden and tears. As a matter of fact, I didn't like to weep and cry out or see others doing that. I wondered, "Who are these people to sentence me to hell, when God is so loving and gracious?". As the days passed by I observed the brothers and sisters so loving to one another, sharing with others what they have, helping those in need, etc. I was convicted by their prayers, as they were in tears for all the people that were in trouble, and for the conversion of souls.

After reading 2 Corinthians 7:8-10, "Godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation", I realized that I was dead in sin. The Apostle Paul wrote letters in a rude manner, reproving the Corinthians for their sins and it helped them to repent. That rude warning made them sorry. When I read these verses, I too remembered my granddaughter reproving my sin, and she was helping me to be sorry, and to repent; I am thankful to her for being rude to me and I love her more now (Prov. 28:23).

It was Gods grace that brought me salvation on September 18th, 2017. Previously, I never cried out confessing my sin at any time. Two days before this, the Lords heavy hand was upon me and I could understand that He was near to save me. I desired it above everything else. I heard a portion of the Church of Wells Sunday service from the day prior, and that day I heard the brothers praying fervently with tears for my salvation. Then I wept bitterly in my heart and in a very low voice I sang some verses:

"My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior Divine, now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day, be wholly thine."

"Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus, come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus. Amen."

"Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on Thee; leave, oh, leave me not alone, still support and comfort me. All my trust on Thee is stayed, all my help from Thee I bring; cover my defenseless head with the shadow of Thy wing".

For the first time in my life I felt calmness in my mind, and as I opened my Bible the words in 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 49:8 came one by one saying that He had heard my prayer and that day was my salvation day! I was overwhelmed with joy. I enjoyed His presence. I sang praises unto Him, deep from my heart! The Word of God became my friend and my delight.

Happy is the man whom God correcteth or chasteneth. We should not despise the chastening of the Almighty (Heb. 12). God is not satisfied and is not delighted in burnt offerings, but wants us to have a broken and contrite heart (Ps. 51:17). He dwelleth and inhabiteth eternity, He lives with him also that is of a broken and contrite heart (Isa. 57:15). To obey is better than sacrifices, and to hearken, than the fat of rams. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry (1 Sam. 15:22, 23). The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit (Ps. 34:18). Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers him out of them all. The preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness, but to us who are saved, it is the power of God (1 Cor. 1:18). It is better to trust in the Lord than

to put confidence in men (Ps. 118:8). Great is the mercy of God toward me, and He has delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

I have a plea to make to all the descendants of my father, the late Sri. S Venkat Reddy. When God saved my father he became a new creature, in spite of facing great opposition. He stood firm for Christ. Now I am not seeing that kind of attitude in most of my relatives. They are doing so many good things so that they can be appreciated by people; being charitable to the poor, funding for the building of Churches, conducting free eye camps, dental camps, building hospitals, building educational institutes, etc. But at times, they are desiring blessings from even the heathen priests, without fearing God. They are desirous of more and more wealth and fame rather than striving to go to heaven. They are forgetting that one day they will have to leave this world and everything on the earth.

The Jealous God is not going to be happy to see this kind of thing in the family of late Sri. S Venkat Reddy (Ex. 34:14). My request is that you humble yourselves in the sight of God (James 4:9). God has exalted Jesus Christ for His obedience unto death on the cross (Phil. 2:10,11). You should call upon the Lord in truth (Ps. 145:18). You have come short of the glory of God by sinning (Rom. 3:23), without fearing God. You should not live after the flesh. You have to mortify the deeds of the body to live (Rom. 8:13). All things work together for good to them that love God (Rom. 8:28). You are supposed to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. God will take care of you if you do this (Matt. 6:33). Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding (Prov. 3:5).

God is Jealous and He is a Consuming Fire (Heb. 12:29). He cannot love us if we go to other Gods, which have no eyes to see and no ears to hear us, they are idols made by humans. Work out your salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12). Anything that you love more than God, is an idol in your life (Lk. 14:26-27). God hates idol worship. We have to love Him and fear Him. The fear of the Lord prolongeth life (Prov. 10:22). Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but they that deal truly are His delight (Prov. 12:22). Let the righteous people smite you, it shall be as an excellent oil (Ps. 141:5).

Prayer: Father in heaven, I am so grateful to You for loving me, though I am the greatest sinner. You did not leave me alone. You delivered my soul from the pit of corruption. You have heard my cry and You had compassion on me, fulfilling my desire of obtaining salvation, in spite of my unworthiness. You gave me time to repent. Thank you for the brethren in the Church of Wells. When I am old and grey headed (already I am 82 years old now), forsake me not until I have shewed Thy strength unto this generation and Thy power to everyone that is to come. Thy righteousness also, O God,

is very high, who hast done great things. O God, who is like unto Thee! Let me not go back though I have to face hardship. Cause Your face to shine upon me by Your great mercies.

I got baptized in the river, by brother Sean, my granddaughter's husband, on September 26th, 2017 while brother Jake was also by my side, and all the Church of Wells gathered, and it was like a festival day for all. Praise the Lord!