

## George Larry Groenewald Testimony

*“This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. And **there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that **even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen**”.*** (Joh 21:24-25)

### **My natural growth:**

I was born into an Afrikaans speaking family in a small town of George in the Southern Cape of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) in 1958. I am naturally very shy and always hide in the group. But somehow I was picked out to be in leadership from a very young age. Leadership somehow comes naturally to me although I never aspire to be in a position of authority. (In fact I hate the way the society’s systems of authority operate – Rev 2:6; 2:15).

From a tender age I learned to accept that God gave me gifts and talents that made others not to live ‘peaceably’ with me. In time I learned that I was not responsible for the coat of many colours the Father gives when every gift is from Him and given for the service of others.

A very important thing to mention here is that I grew up in a time period where racial hatred was the order of the day in the RSA. The evil system of Apartheid (Afrikaans word for racial segregation and discrimination) was justified on biblical grounds where one group felt they were God’s chosen people to rule other racial groups. I grew up and lived in communities that suffered social and racial injustices and that caused me to join “the struggle” against Apartheid, especially on the educational front. But about ten years ago I finally came to see that...

***...My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*** (Joh 18:36)

In the last ten years God has changed my attitude towards our previous oppressors and I was given freedom from the outward political struggle. Even the oppressors are a work of God although it is a constant battle to accept that truth when I see people suffering at the hands of evil men. I have learned to love in a hateful situation.

When I completed my art teaching diploma in early December 1979, I asked the Lord to give me someone that will bring stability to my life because at that stage I was wild and out of control. A few hours after that prayer, I was asked to be at a wedding in Uitenhage, a small town outside Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape of the RSA. The best thing about this town is that it was where I was to meet the love of my life, my “African lady”, who was living there at the time with her family. I met Lyndell Hartzenburg on Sunday afternoon 16 December 1979. Months after our first meeting I only realised that my prayer was answered before I prayed it.

***Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. Many daughters have done virtuously, but Lyndell excels them all.*** (Adapted from Pro 31:10, 29)

We got married in December 1982. We are living in the Cape Town Metropolitan Area since then and we were given the blessing of raising one son, Larry Michael, who was born in 1985.

### **My spiritual growth:**

I grew up in a Pentecostal environment since age 5 (in the Pentecostal Protestant Church) - attending Sunday school where I heard this Scripture for the first time when I was about 12-13 years old:

*and with all deceit of unrighteousness in those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, so that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie, so that all those who do not believe the truth, but delight in unrighteousness, might be condemned. (2Th 2:10-12)*

This scripture had a deep impact on my life as I always prayed that God must not give me this 'strong delusion'. Well now I know He answered my prayer by taking me THROUGH that 'strong delusion' which I suffered from for almost 47 years. Now I can see how important it is to go through Babylon to get to the 'Promised Land'.

I was dragged to Jesus in 1982 (through a denominational church called the AFM of SA); Lyndell was very instrumental to "lead" me to Christ for she was already equipped and trained in the Babylonian church system. I was "on fire for the Lord" from the word go. I wanted to bring every person I knew to meet this Jesus. I did many 'good works' in the congregation where I was active (1983-1988), sacrificing my family, time and money. I served the spiritual harlot as a Sunday school teacher and leader, served on the church council, was the church secretary, praise and worship leader, among others.

During this time in the spiritual harlot I gradually became aware of the limitations that the church denominational system placed on its members. I became very critical about the unbiblical organisational structures and "legalism"...and I openly spoke out against it. I was unaware that I was making enemies because I was ignorant of the fact that people love their denominations with an ungodly passion. (Here in South Africa it is a common thing to see vehicles with stickers on their back windows to show others that they love their church denominations).

Then...late one Saturday night in February 1988 my first big 'earthquake' struck. It came out of the blue. No warning. My best friend and brother in Christ stood up in a church council meeting and blatantly accused me (and the pastor) of planning to set up another breakaway congregation and we were planning to take some of the members of the congregation with us. I was shocked because I never even thought of that. The other members of the council believed every word this brother accused me of. The shocking thing was that the attack was well planned and orchestrated. All my attempts to ask for proof for all their accusations were all in vain. They could not produce one piece of evidence or call in one person I allegedly approached to join the "breakaway" group - because there couldn't have been any. I was dumbstruck because I could not believe the animosity and hatred in those brothers (so-called). We ended the meeting in the early hours on the Sunday morning. I was shaken and my whole "Christian world" was lying in ruins. The stories that went around were devastating. I went through one of the darkest times of my life. I could not believe that my

own spiritual brothers saw me in that negative light. I could have fought back to prove my innocence, but somehow God brought a calmness I could not understand. After much prayer I decided to resign from that congregation. Strangely I did not harbour any resentment towards these brothers. I was isolated and rejected.

For the next seven years I visited and helped other congregations, but finally stopped attending church meetings in 1995. It was all the same duplications of an evil system that I came to hate so much because it is turning beautiful people into monsters. I lost many dear friends and loved ones. The pain was very deep.

From 1995 to 2005 I was searching within myself what happened to the Jesus that I met on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 1982. He felt so far, very far from me.

In this period the biblical doctrine of ‘salvation for all’ was revealed to me through personal studies I did in the three books of Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. I saw from the Scriptures that God IS going to save all people and will bring ‘in the dispensation of the ?fullness of times **in one** all things **in Christ**, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; **even in him.**’ But the dynamics of how He would do it was still hidden from my eyes. And I could not figure out what part ‘hell’ played in the process. I was battling with the concept of an eternal hell because of God’s omnipotence and foreknowledge. That puzzled me for a long time because I did not study the scriptures properly.

During all this time Lyndell and Larry-Michael stood with me and I thank God that they went with me through those lonely years. My pain became their pain.

Because I knew all will be saved, the false doctrine of “greasy grace” caused me to indulge in sin that I never thought I would ever get involved in. It was as if my “wild days” returned with a vengeance. I was angry with God for keeping me in the dark. I wanted to know more, but nothing was coming. I wanted to spite God (if that is possible LOL) and the lust to do sin overtook my life for a short but devastating period. In 2003 I was diagnosed with chronic hypertension and in 2007 chronic hypokalemia was detected. I was systematically brought to my knees and I was forced to make extremely difficult choices concerning my health and career. It all added up with me being totally disillusioned with life in general. Nothing in life made sense anymore.

In the process my beast was exposed to me more and more: it got to such a level that I became aware of my total helplessness to fight all the evil in me. I found I was hopelessly lost without God and without hope of salvation. I was overtaken by the immense fear of hell. My weak foundations of personal opinions started to crumble. The fear of hell gripped my heart in 2005 and tormented me for several months.

The turning point came one Sunday night (I think it was in October 2005), after an exposé of the lies in the life of Benni Hinn on a TV programme here, I searched the internet for the documentation about Bennie Hinn’s fraud. In the process of searching for more documentary proof of the big fraud that the so-called evangelists are involved in (men whom I have followed for years) I stumbled on a website – yes it was [www.bibletruths.com](http://www.bibletruths.com). I was shocked and yet very relieved to see that the things I suspected for years (like tithing under the new covenant) was actually unbiblical. But when I read about the truths of the lake of fire (which I thought of as “hell” at that stage), I was hooked to that site. I was reading everything on that site. I cried most of the time because it was as if my life was opening up in every word I read.

I realised that there were people out there that is going through the same experience I went through – how amazing!!!! I was not alone!!! Every question I had up until that point in my life was given a clarity that was never there before.

On bibletruths.com there was a link to another site, [www.iswasandwillbe.com](http://www.iswasandwillbe.com) of Mike Vinson. I started to read Mike's articles. I found a different approach on the same things that were exposed in bibletruths.com. The articles and studies on [iswasandwillbe.com](http://www.iswasandwillbe.com) were somehow crisper and freshness radiated from it. In 2006 I started spending more time on [iswasandwillbe.com](http://www.iswasandwillbe.com) than on bibletruths.com.

Then in 2006 I found that the link to Mike's site was not on the bibletruths.com website. I found it very strange. I eventually became aware of the disagreements. I was in deep mourning and asked God to bring reconciliation. Then God opened my eyes to see this truth much clearer:

***That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (Joh 3:6)***

It was a sad time in my life but, like Abraham, I had to let go of another part of 'Ismael' in me. A few indicators pointed me in the right direction:

- *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; (Rom 1:18)*
- *And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled. (Rev 15:8)*
- WE SHALL LIVE BY EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM GOD'S MOUTH according to Matthew 4:4.
- We **are** His body and we experience ALL of Him and He experiences ALL of us!
- *For he hath made him sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2Co 5:21)*

God finally gave me His eyes to see behind the parable of the flesh of Jesus (the veil – Hebrews 10:19-20). Then it seemed like my spiritual vision was opened to new levels. I entered the Holy of Holies IN HIM! I now know a man that was 'caught up to the third heaven'. I could see why Jesus is the first (Adam) and the last (Adam). I could see that the 'sum of thy Word' is the context of the book of my life.

I thank God for all who assisted me through the years, especially because it is through their unbelief I was given mercy – they are precious to me and I love them. It is all from Him, through Him and to Him. I pray that God will keep me faithful to the Truth and the doctrine of Jesus till the end.

I launched a blog (in Afrikaans) in April 2010 where I publish short articles for the Afrikaans speaking community ([www.4windkoinonia.wordpress.com](http://www.4windkoinonia.wordpress.com)). I received many responses already, most of them not agreeing with anything I say, as expected. But through this

humbling process I am developing so much that I thank God for electing me as a tool to speak to this beautiful community in Africa.