

Your Journey **STARTS HERE**



CHRIST ACROSS NATIONS



Congratulations


What a wonderful blessing it is to welcome you into the family of God. If you openly confessed that Jesus Christ is Lord and believed in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, then the Bible teaches us that you have been saved (Romans 10:9-10; New Living Translation). That person is you. Congratulations. The Lord Jesus Christ has just saved you and the Father Himself has welcomed you with open arms as His son or daughter. Isn't that just amazing?!

When you made that decision to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour something fantastic happened. You were born again. You are a brand new creation as the Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 5 verse 17. And you can now look at yourself in the mirror today and confidently call say: "I am a child of the Most High God." The Bible tells us further that heaven rejoiced the moment that you turned from your old life and returned to God (Luke 15:7; New Living Translation). Everyone is rooting for you, cheering you on. God Himself promised through His Spirit to guide you in all the truth, every step of this new journey of your new life (John 16:13; New Living Translation).

At this point of your new journey in Christ you are now only a spiritual baby. Which is totally okay. You may find that you have this great excitement and joy in what has happened and cannot wait to share this with everyone you know. For many though they do share in this joy but perhaps feel rather unsure how to go about the next steps in their new journey and may even feel slightly overwhelmed. Regardless of how you feel, it is important just to rest in the fact that you are now on a journey of discovering who you are in Christ Jesus and stepping into your destiny and what God has in store for your life. Be be sure that God through His Holy Spirit is there with you every step of the way. He promised us that He "will never leave nor forsake us" (Deuteronomy 31:6; New International Version).

What will certainly help you during this initial phase of your new journey is to connect with someone who is spiritually mature, who can help you on this new journey of your life. That may be a close friend or relative. However, it is completely fine if you don't have someone close to you who you can connect with. In this booklet we provide you with other tools and discuss other means of getting connected, such as your local church and getting to know new people.

In this booklet we would really like to share with you some Scriptures from the Bible to describe to you briefly: 1. Who you were before your salvation and why you needed saving. 2. Who you now are since you have been saved. 3. What you need to know and important next steps. 4. Provide you with some valuable insights as your journey starts now in Jesus Christ.



Salvation is key

The picture below describes who you were before your salvation. And when you look at what the Bible says about those who have not yet received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, it paints a pretty dooming picture. But this was you. And in essence this picture tells us that the need for salvation is great. People need to be told about Jesus, they need to hear the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ. If not, then they will remain in this dire state.

I encourage you to look at these Scriptures for yourself. But don't take too long, since this was you. This was who you were before you were reconciled to God and received your identity as a child of God.

Next, we will look at who you now are in Christ Jesus. This is where things get really exciting for you personally.

SPIRITUALLY LOST

[Luke 19:10]

SPIRITUALLY SEPERATED FROM GOD

[Ephesians 2:12]

SPIRITUALLY DEAD IN SIN

[Ephesians 2:1]

BELONGED TO SATAN

[Ephesians 2:2]

AN ENEMY OF GOD

[Colossians 1:21]

DESTINED FOR ETERNITY IN HELL

[Matthew 25:46]

IN COMPLETE DARKNESS

[Ephesians 5:8]

Who you are in Christ

Now this is what you need to know. Who you now are in Christ Jesus. That moment you confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believed in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you were saved (Romans 10:9; New Living Translation). The Bible tells us that you had just been born again. What does born again mean, you ask? The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that “anyone who belongs to Christ (that means you) has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun”. In essence you have just traded your old nature and identity as in the previous picture for a completely new nature and identity in Christ Jesus. When God now looks at you, He sees you in a completely new light.

The following picture is a mirror image of who you are in Christ Jesus. Let's take a look.

A CHILD OF GOD

[Galatians 3:26]

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST

[2 Corinthians 5:21]

RECONCILED TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST

[2 Corinthians 5:18]

HOLY, BLAMESLESS AND FLAWLESS

[Colossians 1:22]

ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED

[Ephesians 1:6]

THE SALT OF THE EARTH; THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

[Matthew 5:13-14]

CHOSEN AND CALLED BY GOD

[John 5:16]





Get connected


Now that you have taken a closer look at who you are in Christ, I would really like to encourage you to get connected to fellow born again believers. If you have a close friend or relative that you know have walked with Jesus for a good period of time, it would be great to reach out to them and to share with them the amazing step you had taken by receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

It is crucial though for you to join a local church. Fellowship with other born again Christians is key and other believers can be of support to you, guide you in the various principles of the Bible. In this way you can also learn from someone on becoming a disciple of Jesus, by really following the example Jesus set on how to live for Him. Reach out to the Pastor and to other fellow believers within that church. The Bible speaks of the body of Christ being joined and interconnected by many parts and which function together (see 1 Corinthians 12:14-27).

You can also connect with other believers by joining a small group at church. These are smaller groups who tend to gather during a week night at a central location outside church. What is great about a smaller group setting is that you can build new friendships and grow together with fellow believers. Sometimes church can be quite overwhelming when you are still finding your feet. And these smaller group meetings is a safe environment to engage with others, yet allowing you to be more comfortable around a smaller group of people. When joining the church and a small group, it will help you to also get involved even if it is just as a volunteer at church services or anywhere you can be of help to your local church.

Importantly, we really encourage all to seek God above all others. Get connected to God above everything else. Reach out to Him for His guidance. Through prayer and reading the Word of God, you have the best source of guidance. Indeed, God promised to give wisdom to all who ask it of Him (James 1:5; New Living Translation). Connect with others, but always remain focused on God as your primary source of wisdom and guidance.

The greatest danger for anyone who has just given their heart to the Lord Jesus is to be isolated. This leaves that person completely vulnerable and exposed to attacks from the devil. And therefore having that support around you will be incredibly important. Praying together with those fellow believers, studying the Bible, and growing in Christ is helped by fellowship with other believers.





Water baptism

One of the key things that Jesus Himself preached was not only to be born again through your faith in Him, but to be baptised.


Firstly we read in Matthew 3 that Jesus Himself was baptised in water by John the Baptist (see Matthew 3:13-17). And right at the end of Matthew 28 which today we call the Great Commission by Jesus, He commissions us as believers in Him to “go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19; New King James version). As such, this is something that Jesus Himself placed huge emphasis on.

So what is the water baptism and why is it an important next step for you?

The water baptism in essence is being obedient to this commission from Jesus and it's an act of faith. It's an act of faith towards the Lord, yourself and even others that when you made that decision to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, that you were serious, committed and genuine in doing that. You can consider it a declaration to the world that you have stepped into your position as child of God. And that you are now a follower of Jesus Christ. And it's a truly magnificent experience.

There are a few instances in the Bible where the water baptism is explained. And to simplify it let us use Romans 6 as a reference. Paul the Apostle wrote here that the water baptism is a manifested act where your old person is placed on the cross as was Jesus. And in that moment you are baptised and go underneath the water your old person dies with Christ Jesus, being buried with Him as He was. But the awesome part is, Jesus rose again. And as He overcame death and was raised from the death into a new life, so you have also been raised with Him into this new person, this new nature and identity that you have become in Christ Jesus. In essence you have crucified your old sinful nature, but rose again as a new creation, alive to God. Indeed as you come up from the water during baptism, it is to testify that you are a brand new creation as 2 Corinthians 5 verse 17 speaks about. Isn't that just amazing? Hallelujah.

This makes this next step of being baptised in water really exciting and such a wonderful experience, that if one understand how this an act of faith and proclamation of who you already are in Christ Jesus. Be encouraged to grab the opportunity, reach out to your local Pastor, leader or someone who will help you to get baptised. I am really excited for you.





Final pointers

Here are a few last words of encouragement from us at Christ Across Nations to you as your journey starts now.

GET A BIBLE:


There are many translations available these days, from the King James, New King James, New International Version, New Living Translations. Find a translation that works for you. If you don't prefer a hardcopy printed Bible, there are multiple online versions and websites as well as Bible applications which you can download to your mobile device. There are applications such as Bible.com or Biblehub.com to name a few. Find what works for you best.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

There are so many resources, teachings, bible study tools from well-established ministries. Spend some time going through different teachings and resources. Perhaps at this early stage find a couple of ministers whose teachings speak to your heart. Jump right into their teachings on the various aspects of the Bible which will help in your spiritual growth. Find out from fellow believers whose teachings they found helpful. You are welcome to connect with Evangelist Corné Kok and Christ Across Nations ministries for daily encouragement and teachings.

BE PATIENT WITH YOURSELF:

One of the biggest misconceptions is that once you are born again and have started your journey in Christ, that everything will go smoothly and that you won't make mistakes. I wish to encourage you that even if you still struggle in certain areas of your life, don't lose hope. His love and mercy is unending. If you make a mistake, don't allow the enemy to halt your confidence and fall for his condemning words. The Lord is with you. The Bible says that "God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns" (Philippians 1:6; New Living Translation). This means He is still working on you, on me, on the next believer. We make mistakes. But "His mercies being afresh each morning" (Lamentations 3:23; New Living Translation). This means He wants you to get up, dust yourself off and keep going. You can do this my dear brother, my dear sister.





Final pointers

Here are a few last words of encouragement from us at Christ Across Nations to you as your journey starts now.

YOU HAVE A GOD-GIVEN CALLING AND PURPOSE:

God has called you for a time like this. He sent you to earth for a purpose. He has a plan with your life. Through prayer, spending time with God, studying the Word of God, getting connected with fellow believers, you can find your purpose and calling and step into that. Even if you feel you are still a spiritual baby and need to still learn so much, the Bible says that "God's gifts and His call can never be withdrawn" (Romans 11:29; New Living Translation). Trust in that, seek the Lord to reveal to you what your purpose and calling is. Get a friend or someone from church to pray with you and seek the Lord to discover what God's will is for your life. We also offer a free "Discovering your Motivational Gift" course which will help you discover your gifting (Click [HERE](#) to find out more)


PRAY. READ. WORSHIP. FELLOWSHIP:

In conclusion. Remember the PRWF principle. Pray every day, spend time with the Lord, seek His face and you will see how your relationship with God gets stronger and stronger. If it helps, you can start off by scheduling a time in your day where you communicate with God and He with you. But know also that He is available and listening every minute if every day. Whenever you need Him, He is there.

Read your Bible, study the Word of God, use your resources which will help you increase in knowledge of Him and this will bring you closer and closer to Him. Through this you will dig deeper into the character and heart of God and get to know Him personally.

Worship is a general term for giving praise to God, glorifying Him, exalting Him through music, through ministering to others. Worship in its simplest terms comes as the expression of adoration for God, His majesty, and His supreme Sovereignty.

Lastly, fellowship as mentioned earlier is crucial to your spiritual growth. Reach out and connect with fellow believers. Spend time with people who will encourage, support and build your faith. Fellowship is not only spending time with fellow believers when things are going well. It is also a case of spending time with fellow believers when you are facing an obstacle or struggle in your life and need their prayerful support or guidance.





Let's pray

Father, I thank you for saving my dear brother / sister in Christ Jesus. We thank you that through Jesus we can receive this new life and know that we have entered into the kingdom of God and have our destination in heaven should our time on earth end.

My prayer today is that you will reveal Yourself to my brother, to my sister in Christ. That he / she will have a deep desire to seek you and know you more and more. The Bible says in John 17:3 that “this is the way to have eternal life – to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the One You sent to earth”. You came so we can have life and have it more abundantly (see John 10:10). My prayer today is that you will guide my dear brother and sister in this new journey they have embarked on. An exciting journey, but one in which the Bible tells us we can expect persecutions and trials. But we take comfort in knowing that You are with us always.

Your Word tells us that as children of God we will have our very own personal Teacher in the Holy Spirit. That He will teach us and reveal to us progressively the heart of God, who God is and what God's plans are for our lives.

I now proclaim a blessing over my dear brother, over my dear sister from Number 6:24-26, which reads:


“May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you His favour and give you peace.”

In Jesus Name I pray this. Amen

We are praying for you continually and we are truly excited to know that the process which God has started in your life now, He will complete (Philippians 1:6; New Living Translation).



Give and Partner

Prayerfully consider Giving or becoming a monthly Partner of **Evangelist Corné Kok** and **Christ Across Nations ministries**. Through your financial seed you are investing into the most valued commodity by God, namely souls. Your financial seed will directly have an impact on reaching every person in this world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God bless you.

To Give or become a monthly Partner of Christ Across Nations we have made it easy for you to do so. You can donate either via **EFT**, **PayFast** or **SnapScan**. See details below.



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