



STATEMENT DT045

WRITING YOUR TESTIMONY—GENERAL OUTLINE AND SUGGESTIONS

Overall considerations:

- * Try to keep your writing concise, yet conversational in tone.
- * Try to write in chronologically, if possible
- * Give it a good sense of flow, being careful not to leave large amounts of time unaccounted for.

HOW YOU GOT INTO THE GROUP

- * Were you born into a family that was already in the group, or were you converted?
- * If you were a convert,
 - What led to your conversion? -- family, friends, literature, a need for direction in your life, something else?
 - At what age did you convert?
 - Did you have any doubt at the time of your conversion? Were any of them later confirmed?

YOUR TIME IN THE GROUP

- * How long were you in the group? Did you ever leave, and then rejoin?
- * What position(s) did you hold, if any?
- * How much time (weekly, monthly) was spent in different group-related activities (proselytizing, teaching, maintenance work), if significant?
- * What things about being in the group stand out as being particularly satisfying or depressing? (General)

LEAVING THE GROUP / MEETING THE LORD

A. Leaving

- * Were there any experiences in your time with the group that, in retrospect, stand out as being significant -- particularly incidents that might have planted a seed of doubt, or confirmed earlier doubts?
- * Which of the following contributed to your decision to leave: Scripture(s); tract(s); witness of Christian(s); hypocrisy in the group; discouragement over inability to perform sufficient good works; other (specify).
- * Was it a long or short process?
- * What effect, if any, did your leaving have on family or other relationships?

B. Meeting the Lord

- * At what point did you find the Lord -- before or after you actually broke ties with the group?
- * Where did you accept the Lord? Was there a time of private, personal decision, or did you accept the Lord in a public meeting of some kind? What ran through your mind?
- * What held you back from making your decision? Did you struggle `til the las t?
- * Compare your new life in Christ with your former life-style, self-image, world view, etc.
- * Feel free to cite or quote fully scriptures that either spoke strongly to you or that you have since read and identified with. (Don't overdo!)
- * **IMPORTANT!** Be sure to devote appropriate time and emphasis to this part of the testimony -- some people make it the shortest and least memorable part, believe it or not! Pray and ask the Lord how He would have you tell your story.

A helpful reference for those newly converted to Christ is the pamphlet written by CRI President, Hank Hanegraaff, "Does Your Relationship with God Make You Sure You'll Go to Heaven When You Die?" **P045/1.00**