Hello, my name is Pam Martin-Wells. I’m the all-time leading money winner in women's fishing. I’ve been fishing professionally since 1986. During those years I’ve won 24 national titles, 7 Angler of the Year titles, and the Women’s Bassmaster Tour championship. I’ve also been inducted into the Legends of the Outdoors Hall of Fame. Early in my career when I would win a tournament or do well, it always seemed as though something was missing but I couldn’t quite put my finger on it.

After April 4, 1999, I realized what had been missing all this time. Without the Lord in my life, all my success was for me and for nothing. After coming to know God, I realized that all my success was for His glory. Becoming a born again Christian has changed my whole perspective in all aspects of my life and my career. I have sponsors for my fishing, but let me tell you that my main sponsor in life is the Lord. Philippians 4:13 says “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” Since I’ve come to know this as the truth, knowing that as long as I believe in Him and have faith, I can do anything, as long as it is in God’s will.

When I was young, I went to Sunday School every Sunday. Even if we were out of town my parents would make it possible for me to visit a church in the area. I went for 7 years without missing a Sunday. Granted, as a child, part of this was wanting to receive the attendance pin, but I was also eager to learn about the Bible and the Lord. As I grew older, I began to notice and realize things going on that didn’t go along with what I was being taught. There were people in the church that I would see on Sunday acting one way and then see them Monday through Friday acting in a way that wasn’t very Christ-like. So I stopped going to Church thinking I could serve and worship on my own and not be associated with that kind of hypocrisy. I also thought I could be saved and be a Christian without attending church or being publicly saved.

One Sunday while at church, there was a new minister whom I had actually gone to school with. I enjoyed listening to his sermons and was able to understand what he was saying. Then on Easter morning, church was standing room only. My entire family was there, and many people that I had gone to school with were there. It was the only time I can remember having a sense of authority with the pastor. On Easter morning, he preached about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I believe it was that Sunday that I became a Christian. Ever since then, I have attended church regularly and as an adult attending church on holidays and special occasions, time and time again I wanted to walk down the aisle for salvation, but I was too shy to go down in front of the congregation. When I was older it seemed that each Sunday the preacher was directing his sermon at me personally. I resented his picking on me, and did not want this pastor to be the one who would hear my prayer to accept what Jesus did on the cross for me. Now I know it wasn’t the speaker in the pulpit, but the Lord speaking to my heart and convicting me of my wrong doings.

Please pray this prayer too!
Heavenly Father, I’m a sinner, and I’m sorry for all the sins in my life. I ask that You would forgive me and cleanse my heart with the blood of Your son Jesus. I give You my life, Jesus. Come into my heart as Lord and Savior and direct my paths on this earth from this day forward. Thank You for giving Your life on the cross for me, and help me to always live for You. Amen.

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PAM MARTIN-WELLS
to school with. On this day, Pastor Tim said he was going to do things a little different and have the invitation in the middle of the service rather than at the end. The invitation was always at the end of the service and I had conditioned myself to refuse to go down. I would dig my fingers into the pew ahead of me and try to think of something else to keep from going down the aisle. This time was different and when the time came, without warning, I was pushing people out of my way to get down the aisle. It was as if I had tunnel vision; I didn't notice anyone there except for the preacher at the end of the aisle. There was NOTHING stopping me.

If you believe and have faith, the Lord will take care of you. In Psalms 55:22 “Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.” Then in May 1999 I went again before the church to be baptized. In Acts 2:38 Peter said, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.” It was incredible that despite my past shyness in front of just a few people, I was going down to the altar in front of a full church and I didn’t care how many people were there or what they might think. This is proof of how the Lord works! I just knew I wanted a relationship with the Lord and that was all that mattered.

I’m sure you have heard people say how it seemed like a load was lifted off their shoulders. Well, I can tell you, when I walked down that aisle, it was as if a heavy burden was cast off. Actually it was, because when you become saved, all of the burdens of life are taken on by the Lord. Now I’m not saying that you will not have troubles and trials—it’s just that you have the security of knowing that you no longer have to bear the burden alone.

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After this I became involved in the FOCAS (Fellowship of Christian Anglers) meetings before our tournaments. Friends of mine were leading these meetings and asked me to give my testimony. In Matthew 4:19, Jesus said, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” I agreed, but was extremely nervous, because I don’t do public speaking very well. There was a lady there that evening who had not intended on staying, but the meeting had started before she could leave so to be polite, she stayed. A few weeks after that FOCAS meeting, this person called me to tell me that she had become saved and wanted to thank me. We talked for a while and at the next tournament she was extremely excited about the Lord. Then a month later, she was killed in an auto accident. Now, I’m not taking responsibility for her coming to receive Christ, this just shows how the Lord works in mysterious ways and that things happen for a purpose. (I didn’t exactly want to talk in front of these people and she didn’t want to be there) When the Lord speaks to your heart, nothing can hold you back.

I was blessed that in all the times I felt the need or desire to be saved and had refused, I was given time. This particular person may not have had another opportunity if she had not been saved when she was. I ask that if the Lord knocks on the door to your heart, please don’t close the door. Open your heart and your life to the Lord. We never know when it will be our time to go and I would much rather be saved knowing that I will have eternal life and go to Heaven rather than spending eternity in Hell. Only those who believe and receive Jesus Christ and his atoning blood can know for sure that they are saved. Ephesians 2:8-9 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” John 3:16 says “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” In Matthew 10:32–33 Jesus says, “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.” Please don’t get the impression that I am perfect, I am far from it. However, now I strive to be a better person and am more aware of my actions and reactions. With this I say if you do not know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, open your heart and listen to Him. You are not alone, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23. “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23 Never say no to God!