

## My Story



I'm thirty-seven years old and currently a police officer in southeast London. I was brought up in mining town of South Yorkshire and after a spell in the army I moved to London and became involved in a relationship that resulted in the birth of my eldest daughter Joanne (12). The relationship sadly broke down which allowed me to live the 'single life.' A period of lost months ensued resulting in the self-questioning of life and its purpose.

Around the same time I was reintroduced to the Bible through a Jehovah's Witness, a book I had not looked at since early childhood. This provoked a time of self-study from an atheist viewpoint with the intention of converting the witness to my train of thought. Although not aware at the time I began to suffer with anxiety and panic causing a fear of what life held for me. Early in 1995 it was during one such attack of fear whilst laying in bed one night that I actually prayed to God to reveal himself to me. It came as no surprise, thinking I was an atheist, that there came no immediate response.

A little while later, still laying quietly in bed I received what can only be described as a vision. It came not in the form of a clear picture, but more through a sense of goodness accompanied by a visual aura of light. Together the vision was so clear to me that I knew it was in fact God answering my call. This lasted for what seemed around ten minutes. It then began to fade and was replaced with a similar vision but this time it wasn't one of goodness and light but one of darkness and evil. It was as real as the previous vision; but this one instead of giving a sense of comfort and love, it caused fear. It felt as though I had to make a choice between the darkness and the light. Deep down I knew this was the devil or God.

I again prayed as before for the darkness to cease and the light to return and I can recall that the darkness didn't want to go, it was as though it was fighting to remain. Eventually it did fade and was replaced with that vision of light and sense of goodness that I had previously felt. I knew at once that I had now turned and accepted God into my life and there was now no turning back. I drifted off to sleep and awoke the next morning knowing I was now a Christian and a new life had begun.

Immediately it became imperative to get myself baptized as my recent study at taught me that as a person 'born again' that is what I should do. I sought out my local Vicar who gladly performed the task a few weeks later. Well, that was ten years ago and it has been a steady journey to this point, at which I now write. I am now happily married to my wife Samantha and have three more children, Isobel (6), Samson (4) and Cameron (2). My feelings at this point in training to become an Evangelist are fairly strong with enthusiasm but knowing that I am not yet fully equipped to fulfil the role for which I believe God is calling me to do. But strangely, I do feel like an Evangelist 'in training' as opposed to someone training to be one. I don't know where my journey will take me but I'm gaining confidence to trust God to be my guide and I pray to him through Jesus to keep showing me signs to illuminate the path.

Roger Laing  
St Paulinus Church.  
Crayford.