



B's Story

I was brought up in foster care from the age of 4, and got introduced to the occult when I was 14. That quickly became involved in my everyday life. When I turned 21, social services dropped off, and very shortly afterwards I was faced with the very real prospect of homelessness, which is why I started using the soup run, staffed by a bunch of "goodie two-shoe Christians" (as I viewed it at that time).

I got talking to one of the helpers who I was really drawn to, and kept trying to make him contradict himself when referring to the Bible, but I just could trip him up. I made it my weekly mission to go down there and try again, because if I could trip him up, I knew it was false. One week I got invited to go to their church. There was a pull inside me to go, so I agreed. I started going every week, and about 2 months later I was asked if I would like to go to Encounter 08. I was strapped for cash so the church sorted me out and I tagged along.

As we approached Encounter, I started feeling happier and adventurous. I turned to the group and said "whilst we are here, lets sign up and do everything". They agreed, so we did. Best thing I ever said!!! During Monday night worship, and all through Tuesday I had a growing urge to have what everyone else had. They were all so happy all the time. That started to rub off on me.

On Wednesday afternoon, I pulled Jim (the leader) aside, and told him I wanted to become a Christian. I repented of my sins and gave my life to Christ. At that moment I got nothing. People said they had a sense of peace and felt a love they had never felt before. All I felt was disappointment. In the seminar later that afternoon, we were asked to come forward to be prayed for, and I went forward. Someone started praying for me, then said he sensed a spirit of divination. He asked if he could pray over that, and Gary was also with me at that time. I agreed and suddenly started belching and doubling up as they prayed. Instantly I felt a huge sense of relief, my chest pain disappeared, along with the lump in my throat. I felt warm from head to toe as if I was getting a huge hug.

In the evening, after worship & preach, anyone wanting baptism in Holy Spirit or a gift from God went to the back of the barn. Jimmy and I both went, and we were both baptised in the Holy Spirit. The same chap from the afternoon prayed for me again. He suddenly got drunk in the Holy Spirit and creased up with laughter. Very soon we were all laughing. I had such a huge sense of pure joy.

The rest of the week was brilliant. I saw things in a totally different way. The Bible started to make sense. I began to pray. From that day I totally changed, and this change has continued ever since. I have a hunger to be with God, to know Him, and to read His word. That's all I want to do – constantly.

In the time since Encounter, I have focussed on God. My life is not perfect. I still have my problems, but I am finding it a lot easier to deal with now. I am currently doing an Alpha course, have joined a small group and am getting baptised in water at the end of November 08.

Encounter 17th - 21st August 2009

For more details visit www.hope-church.org.uk/encounter