



D's Story

I was born in Wembley in 1961. My mother left home when I was about two and I lived with my father until I went into care at the age of four. My father suffered from mental health issues and that was the reason I was taken into care.

Even as a young boy I felt very isolated in the home. My father used to visit me occasionally and I longed to be at home with him again.

I was always in trouble in the home, and I was constantly running away and in trouble with the police. My mother found out where I was living, and I was allowed to visit her, and eventually I went to live with her and her new partner, and my two new step-sisters. My mother and my step-father didn't appear to get on very well, and I didn't feel as if I fitted in to the family home.

By the age of sixteen I was taking drugs, and by the age of nineteen, I was a biker. I moved to Cornwall to live with a friend. I got a job doing sheet-roofing and I was also claiming benefits. I made a lot of friends in Cornwall and together we formed a club called the Devil's Disciples. The leader of our club was affiliated to the Hell's Angels. It was a very rebellious and non-conformist life-style. I didn't realise it then, but I was taking part in a lot of demonic activity which was going to affect my life for many years to come.

There was an accusation made against me and I was forced to leave the biking club. I was very upset about leaving this club as it had become my 'family' and my 'life'.

I then had my first experienced of God: I had a deep impression that God was going to look after me and I had to find out how to become a Christian.

For some reason I ended up at Stonehenge on a summer solstice. I was beginning to sense the difference between the demonic and the Spirit of God and I felt I had to leave that place. I then returned to London and a friend put me up and within a couple of weeks I had my own digs and a job.

I got saved at an open outreach ran by YWAM. I started going to Ichthus Christian Fellowship and that is where I met my first wife. We had two daughters, but the marriage didn't last. I then met Gill, and eventually we got married and started going to Kings church. I have had problems with my marriage to Gill. I had mental health problems and I was diagnosed with schizophrenia. I have been very unwell and been in and out of hospital over the past ten years.

I had been praying for God to heal me, but it was not until I went to Encounter Camp – that God met with me. I had prayer over several days and I felt God set me free from many issues that had bound me. I no longer hear voices and I feel I have more confidence.

Many people have noticed a change in me and have commented. Although I still have my struggles I enjoy the 'peace of God' much more than before. Encounter Camp is a week of teaching, fun and prayer ministry and if you have never been, I would thoroughly recommend it.

Encounter 17th - 21st August 2009

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