



My Christian Life Story so far

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My story starts when I was 17. I am writing this nearly 30 years later. I was bright enough but I wasted my time at school. My plan was to do A'Levels and then go off to University. I failed at my O'Levels—I was devastated (but it was *my* fault). Through this however, God was directing my life— though at the time I didn't know it. I allowed God into my life when I was 17. I was baptized by full emersion on my 18th birthday. We have been on a journey together, God and I, ever since.

"For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." Proverbs 29 v 11

God?—I have always believed that God exists. I look at "created" things to confirm my belief in God. I can't prove that God exists but to me, the evidence of God is all around us in creation. God has made this world for us to enjoy.



"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" Genesis 1 v 1

Sin—The Bible says that sin separates us from God. I sinned before I became a Christian and I still sin now. I'm not proud of my sin, it is there though. What is sin? It is disobedience to God—it's doing stuff that God doesn't like.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" Romans 3 v 23

Jesus—Jesus Christ; historical figure, miracle worker, preacher, teacher, yes all those things. But I believe that he was the Son of God who died for me and rose again from the dead for me. That makes Him very special in my life.

"But God demonstrates his love for us in this, whilst we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5 v 8

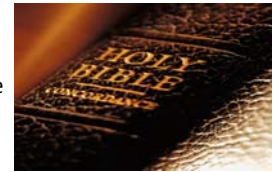
Saved—Life changed for me when I grasped the truth that Jesus died for *me* personally and I needed to choose what to do with that truth. God offers everyone the opportunity to accept him as their own. I chose to follow Jesus when I was 17, and I try to reaffirm that commitment to Him every day. I will continue to fail God but he guarantees that I am saved and that I have eternal life.

I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one can come to the Father, except through me" (Jesus) Mark 14 v 6

Church—For me, the Church has been a place of friendship, care and love. I give time and money to the Church to enable it to function. It's now a huge part of my life. The Church is for me about two things; enabling Christians to meet together and serve together, and for us to gather together to worship God and to pray. It is an exciting body to be a part of.

"So in Christ, we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12 v 5

Life in the Spirit (New Life) - I choose to be guided by God and His Word, the Bible. If God is all-seeing, and all knowing, then it's pretty good to have Him in control of my life. God is 3-in-1 and when Jesus went back to heaven He left his Holy Spirit here to comfort and to guide, to prompt and to empower. A life lived by faith in God is fulfilling.



"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" John 10 v 10b

What's next? - Clearly, nobody ever really knows what's next for them. I place my life in God's hands knowing that he has the very best things in store for me if I continue to trust him and call him Father. I will try on my part to stay as close to God as I can. I live in the world and I participate in business and in sport and in general life and God is with me in all these things. Yet God also calls me to retain a focus on Him, and on things that are good and holy. So I will continue to try to do my best, to love God with all of my heart, soul and mind and I will continue to try to love my neighbour as myself. I will continue to try to develop a close relationship with God through prayer and through



I'm forgiven because of the empty cross!

meeting with other believers and being part of the Church. Inevitably I'll get it wrong, but God only asks that we try - to continue to practice being Christians, knowing that his gift to us was free—as long as we accept it personally for ourselves. God has been incredibly

good to me, giving me a lovely family, a superb Church and a great business. I praise God for His amazing generosity.

And if you're interested— The most important thing to do if you feel that you would like to know more about the Christian faith and how to become a Christian is to find a Christian or Bible believing Church to go to.

I'd be very happy to talk further with you. My contact details are on the front. A Church will also help you discover more.

My church is Trinity Baptist Church;
www.trinitybexleyheath.org.uk

If you're not quite ready to go to a Church, start by reading the book of Mark in the New Testament to get a good understanding of Jesus' life and ministry.

Jesus has already died and rose again—he offers you the chance of sharing in that gift. But you need to decide to accept that gift for yourself.

"For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God—not by works, so that non one can boast." Ephesians Chapter 2 v 8 & 9