



A NEW START

On the final morning of the camp, I prayed a simple prayer, "Jesus, if you really are there, I want to know You. Forgive me for the things I've done wrong and my rebellion. Come into my heart and change my life. I give it to you, Amen". Later that evening, around a campfire, an opportunity was given for anyone to share in front of other campers what God had done for them during the week.

This was really it! I had not yet told anyone of my private prayer earlier in the day. All my friends were present, none of them had decided to follow Jesus. I was nervous. I stood up and simply declared my decision to follow Jesus Christ and make Him number one in my life. As I sat down I felt a great peace, love and cleansing, flood my heart. It was as if I was beginning life all over again, making a new start with a new friend to direct me. I returned from the camp with a new heart, eager to build a stronger relationship with Jesus. A good number of years and many different experiences have passed since I became a Christian and I have found Jesus to be faithful every step of the way. Thankyou.

The new life that Martin experienced can be yours too - whoever you are and whatever you have done, it is possible!

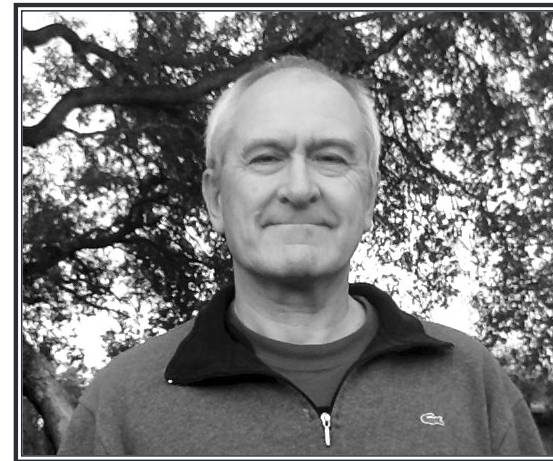
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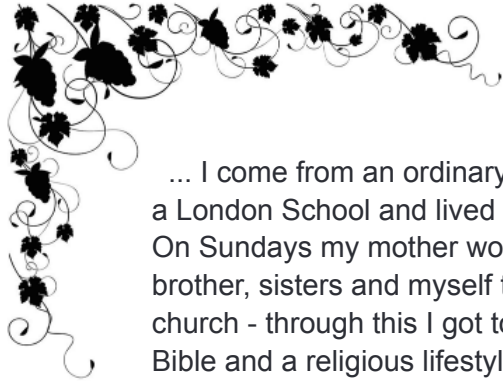
A new start is possible!



Quite a few years ago now, something happened that caused a complete turnaround in Martin Chapman's life.

Here Essex-born Martin, tells his own story...





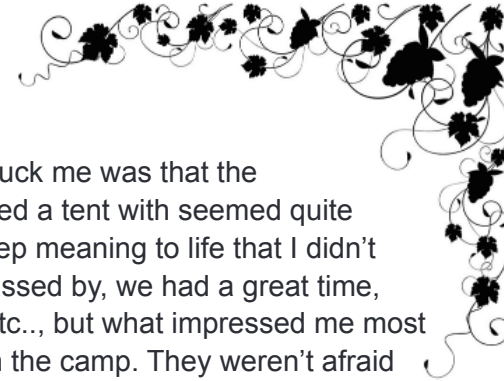
... I come from an ordinary family, I attended a London School and lived in Kent. On Sundays my mother would take us - brother, sisters and myself to our local Baptist church - through this I got to know all about the Bible and a religious lifestyle.

BORED WITH CHURCH

By the time I left school at 16, I was bored with church - it held no interest for me. Instead I became thoroughly engrossed in farming, with a great ambition to make it in the agricultural world! There followed one year's practical experience on a rabbit /Jersey herd farm in Sussex (pre-agricultural college).

Then something took place that was to change the whole direction of my life. I was invited, with a number of friends, to a Christian camp in Lewes, Sussex. It sounded good to me; canoeing, climbing, walking, swimming and with the mornings spent in Bible study (that would be the boring bit I thought!).

I climbed onto my trendy moped and made off - ready to have a good time...



THE BATTLE!

The first thing that struck me was that the Christians who I shared a tent with seemed quite normal, but with a deep meaning to life that I didn't have. As the week passed by, we had a great time, canoeing, climbing, etc., but what impressed me most was the Christians on the camp. They weren't afraid to talk about their friendship with Jesus, and they obviously enjoyed worshipping Him and thanking Him for what He'd done for them. It was not what I had been used to in Church.

As I went to the morning Bible studies, something was slowly getting through to me; not only challenging my thinking, but reaching deep inside my heart. I was searching for an answer for the empty life I was leading. My need became clear to me... the things I'd done wrong; the hopelessness and emptiness of a selfish, self-fulfilled life. I saw in these other campers, not religion, but life. I wanted what they had - to be free to live as God created me to live, clean and with a loving relationship towards Him. But how could I get it? My pride told me "No, you don't need that, you'll get through". My mind told me, "what will people say, you're barmy! My senses said, "This is stupid, you've managed up until now!". But in my heart a battle was going on - if God wasn't real, why was I having this fight?