

## COLIN'S TESTIMONY

My name is Colin Richardson. In my old life I was a drunkard, a menthol cigarette smoker and a gambler. In 1985 I had a mental breakdown and schizophrenia was diagnosed, and I spent a year becoming more and more ill. I was in hospital two weeks in and two weeks out and two weeks in, over and over. While in hospital I spent a lot of time thinking about, and praying to, God and Jesus. Whom I love more than my beautiful fiancé Carol L. Roy, she is very beautiful on the outside and on the inside.

When I finally came out of hospital, I moved into my own house away from Mum and Dad to Moorside and after five years I moved again to Shotley Bridge, where I lived for sixteen years.

A lady, who was a pen pal, came to stay with me for a week. She brought a Bible, which was different to the Jehovah's bible I was studying. She introduced me to the Methodist Church Shotley Bridge, which I attended for eight years. I enjoyed the fellowship at this church. They were lovely people, but I wasn't growing spiritually.

I was dreading the winter coming so my pastoral visitor Heather Pinkney suggested I go to the Assemblies of God Pentecostal Church at Blackhill. After a while of going to the A.O.G I heard Jesus calling me and went forward to give my heart to Lord Jesus (Yeshua). Later I had a Believers Baptism in the Baptismal Pool.

One day I was going down to my Mum's when I found I was doing something strange. Instead of walking through the churchyard as normal I was walking the long way round. When I drew level with the Baptist Church I noticed a sign which said 'Coffee Morning.' I went in and met some lovely ladies who are still my friends today. Now I attend the Baptist church Blackhill and the Blackhill Baptist coffee morning regularly. I have come a long way in a short time thanks to my God & God leads me to good friends like Sylvia and Richard Lewins who are here to support me today. And my Almighty God Jesus & Holy Spirit.

In a while I am going to produce a Magazine for Christians.

I am a different person now since I received Jesus Yeshua in to my heart. I love everyone including people who are my brothers and sisters in foreign lands. These people make me cry when they lose their lives for their faith but who go to Heaven and sit at God's feet.

Recently I have been fundraising for Help for Heroes, Scope, Water Aid, Open Doors, Cash for Kids and Christian Solidarity Worldwide, and Blackhill youth café.

And I'm now planning an open doors for persecuted Christian's morning.

Now I try not to ask anything for myself, but to serve and glorify The Lord Jesus & God the father, the Holy Spirit & help others.

Brother Colin Richardson