

Barry's story

Barry crunched budgets for Britvic's bottling plant in Beckton for 48 years. He is now retired and lives on his own.

What impact did God have on your thinking before?

"I guess I assumed that there must be something out there, but I didn't do anything about it. God had no bearing on what I lived for. Work kept me busy, and later caring for my ageing mum and her partner, so I didn't think to find out."

What changed?

"In the start of 2016, a member of the church visited me, and I started reading Luke's gospel for myself. As I read, I wanted to find out about the life and teaching of Jesus, and the events that led up to his death. I also watched a series called 'Tales of the Unexpected'. The real life stories after each episode helped me to see a need to respond to Jesus free offer of forgiveness. Around this time I also had a growing desire to visit the church. When I finally went in June, it had a big impact on me. Unlike the format I'd known as a child, people were very welcoming, and keen to get to know me."

What impact does God have on life now?

"When you take the step to becoming a Christian, you realise just how wrong you'd been, in the way you've lived and what I'd assumed about God. Whereas I never gave him a second thought, I now know Him as my King who will return. Our attitude towards him now, will form our stance when we meet Him, and he will deal accordingly."

When I pray, I always thank God for bringing me to know Jesus. I recognise that He did all the hard work of salvation, and our small, but important job, is to tell people that they will meet Him one day. I ask God to do that for them, as He did for me."

Twice a week we visit local homes. If we are welcomed, we have the kind of friendly chat you'd expect neighbours to have, which often brings an opportunity to explain what Jesus has done for them."



I love hearing God's word explained, and I am also attending 'The Training Ground', which will make it easier for me to understand and explain the Bible to others."