

Paul Cosh's Baptism Testimony

I was born, 2nd April 1967 and was the oldest of 3 boys. I had an excellent childhood, growing up in Coleford and remember things like the annual holidays to the I.O.W.. We really looked forward to going each year because every time we went back there was always something different to do!!



Like most teenagers in the village, I belonged to the village youth club and over time I was asked to be the assistant Youth Club Leader. I accepted and eventually became the club's Youth Leader. To this day people, who came to the club, still remind me of the events we held, or places we had visited. It was a good time!

I've had many jobs in my life from stacking shelves at supermarkets to landscape gardening, making concrete blocks to long distance truck driving. When not at work I'm into Landrovers, Carnival Club, The British Red Cross and of course drinking lots of Guinness!! As well as those things I'm also a Community First Responder for the Great Western Ambulance Service, which is how I got to meet Aby who is being Baptised with me today. On the whole LIFE WAS GOOD.

ALL this changed on the 20th September 2006, when as a family we were told that my younger brother Steve had died after an accident. The months after the accident were very hard for us and when Christmas came we had the usual family celebrations, but this was difficult with Steve not being there.

Then on New Year's eve I found out my wife was leaving me after 14yrs of marriage. Trying to cope with the loss of Steve and now this was too much to handle. I struggled with what was going on in my life. There were just lots of negative thoughts going round in my head. I knew I needed help and after speaking to my Doctor I was placed with a mental health team in Frome. Over the next few months, with their help the bad thoughts in my head became less.

Then one day out of the blue, a friend, Kevin Smith, asked if I was interested in going to the next Alpha course being run by the church. He explained that you get to learn about the Christian faith and about Jesus.

I thought "Yeah right!! GOD...LOVE...!! I don't think so...!!!"

But he kept asking me...so eventually I thought "Well I could try just this once and I'm big enough and bold enough, that I could leave at any time...!!"

WOW! IT WAS BRILLANT!

It all took place in a relaxed atmosphere, we watched a DVD and had a group discussion over a meal. I CAN HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT!

At the end of the course, there were still questions that I had, but "why stop here?" I thought, "What have I got to lose if I become a member of the church?"

So on the 8th January 2008 in the presence of Mike (the pastor) and John and Mary Addicott, the Alpha hosts

I BECAME A CHRISTIAN



Thank you to all the people who have stuck by me during the last 11 months, everyone at my house group and all who have attended the Somerset Wagon pub meet. Both I and Aby would like to thank Jonathan Cooper for all he has done for us and for answering those questions which we sometimes found difficult to ask. Finally a big thank you to a really special friend, Lee Green, who couldn't be here today as he is in hospital. Lee, I just want to say how much I value your friendship.