Tom

My life before becoming a Christian was unstable. I felt a connection with God when I was a child but turned away from Him when I was seven after my grandad died. In my teens I became rebellious towards my parents and started drinking and smoking drugs. Through my adult years, despite having a good career as a chef, I had some really difficult experiences and a number of broken relationships. Looking back, I realize I was looking for love and affirmation in all the wrong places.

My life began to spin out of control and I started looking into different spiritual practices and religions which didn't help. I was a broken mess. Then one day, I was walking through the city centre and came across a street preacher. He called me over and asked, "If you were to die tomorrow, where would you go: heaven or hell?" I instantly replied, "Hell!" He said, "No. You need to repent and Jesus will save you!" He gave me the gospel of Mark but I stuck it in a drawer at home thinking it was a load of rubbish.

After that, things got much worse. I lost four stone in weight and couldn't eat. I was struggling with suicidal thoughts and one day while in the bath, I held my head under the water and was going to do it.

But then I remembered what the street preacher had said and cried out to Jesus. Immediately, the atmosphere in the room changed and I went from hysterically crying nto having tears of joy and an overwhelming feeling of peace. I said, "Jesus I'm sorry. Save me and I'll give my life to you." I asked Him to send people to help me because I knew I couldn't do it on my own anymore. Within a couple of days, I was walking to work through Market Square and was approached by two guys from Trent Vineyard. They asked me what I thought about Jesus and if I had ever prayed before.

We spent about 45 minutes talking and they prayed for me. They invited me to church but I was so nervous I came secretly and sat at the back. As I listened to the talk though, I burst into tears because I knew God was speaking to me. I gradually got more involved and was baptised which was amazing. I've met so many great people here who have helped me gain a better understanding of God's love. Jesus has changed my life. I'm so thankful that I get to worship Him and do life with my family at Trent Vineyard where I'm supported, loved and encouraged. Jesus saves!

Changing Lives