

STARTING OUT AS A CHRISTIAN

Starting out as a Christian

Something will have sparked off your interest in being a Christian otherwise I doubt if you would be reading this leaflet. Quite frequently, it is the impact of what has happened to a friend or a nagging question that must be answered.

It is good to be clear about what will not make you a Christian:

- Going to Church
- Doing good to others
- Being baptised or confirmed
- Believing the right things

All of these are important, but would never enable you to become a Christian.

Christianity is about establishing a relationship, rather than following a set of rules. It is about knowing, loving and serving the God who made you.

Crucial to becoming a Christian is welcoming Jesus Christ into your life, not as an occasional guest but as the director of operations. This decision is the most important one you will ever make.

God Himself tells how this relationship may be established and what is required of you.

Promise

God loves you and has a plan for your life. John 3:16

Problem

All have sinned (fallen short) and are spiritually dead and separated from God. Romans 3:23

Hope

Christ died in your place to restore your relationship with God. Romans 5:8

Response

You must receive Christ as your Saviour and Lord. Romans 10:9-13, John 1:12

Prayer

Pray "Father, I realise I have sinned, and I am truly sorry. I believe you sent your Son to die in my place. I also believe He rose again and now lives. Forgive me for my sin and take charge of my life. I welcome your Holy Spirit as He enters my life and personality. Thank you Lord. Amen."

It will be surprising if you do not feel different as the new life, which the Holy Spirit brings, starts to develop. A new beginning is something to be excited about!

Remember that your feelings, good or bad, do not alter the fact that Christ has promised to be with you permanently. Jesus is now in your life, whether your feelings are strong or not. He is with you and wants you to grow.

Grow strong by developing a relationship with Him.

Spend time reading the Bible on your own and with others. Read a Gospel, followed by the book of Acts, as a starting point.

Start conversing with God in prayer. Keep a record of answered prayer.

Be prepared to share with others the good news of the relationship you have found with Jesus Christ. Simply telling your story is a good way to start.

Spend time with other Christians who will help you.

Worshipping together on Sundays and belonging to a small group is something that establishes firm foundations.