

**Jonny:** Possibly the biggest turning point in my life so far was the break-up of my marriage in 2013. It was a wake-up call from God. I had mucked up and now the Lord was prompting me to turn back to him.

I had committed my life to God in 1995 and been baptised. Before then, although I had been brought up to go to church and I understood Christian teaching, I had been too apathetic to make a commitment.

Shortly after I got engaged and married, but one day something was said in church that offended us and we walked out. From then on, although we would both have called ourselves Christians, God was never at the centre of our marriage. I became negative towards others who called themselves Christians but did not measure up to what Christians should be – even though my own life did not match up either!

We became focussed on other things such as our careers and bettering ourselves with materialism.

A destructive factor in my life was an addiction to pornography which had been with me since my early teens and this was never dealt with in my marriage. My addictive behaviour proved to be the last straw in our crumbling relationship.

The weekend after we broke up I spent loads of time praying. The security of my marriage was gone. I asked God for forgiveness for what I had done and re-committed my life to him. I previously had some contact with Living Stones Community Church and I re-connected with the people there.

The Holy Spirit led me to people I could trust. I discovered a new freedom in the Spirit. I have realised afresh how Jesus died for my

sin and he has given me a new start. I have renewed motivation and energy. God has broken down my earlier prejudices against other Christians.

A major part of my life has been my career in catering. From an early age this was all I wanted to do.

However, I have mild cerebral palsy. Although I have never considered myself disabled I was told – ‘you’ll never get into catering’. It made all the more determined and today I hold a position of Senior Chef.

More than that, I have come to realise I can use my gifts to the glory of God, and he has opened up some great ways of serving others through my passion for catering.

Since my marriage break up I feel I have come home. My security is now in the Lord. He is my provider. Putting God first has been liberating. Praying with others was once off limits but now it switches me on.

I now have a heart for those who are struggling. Before I would have been nonchalant to them, just thinking ‘that’s their life’. I have become part of Community Wise chaplaincy team, which once would have been right out of my comfort zone.

I owe so much to the hidden heroes in my story - my faithful praying parents who brought me up to live God’s way and whose godly influence on my life over the years never left me.

As I look forward, I am open to what the Lord would have me do with my life.