



# **Bierton Strict and Particular Baptists: My Testimony and Confession, Set for a Defense and Confirmation of the Gospel**

*David Clarke*

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This is a true story of David Clarke, born in Oldham Lancashire, in 1949. David Clarke was teaching as a lecturer at Fareham College in April 1995, when he heard the news of his older brother Michael's imprisonment in the Philippines. During the 60s he and his older brother Michael began to enjoy lives of crime, promiscuity and infamy, during their teenage years whilst living in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. David and Michael lived with their parents and younger sister in Aylesbury, and became criminals in the 60s. They were both sent to prison in 1967, for malicious wounding and carrying a firearm without a license. David served his time in young persons Borstal Training Institute at Dover, and Michael served his time in Maidstone Prison. On leaving Borstal in 1968, David was determined to have a good time living a life of crime, with no fear or belief in God, respect for society, parents, or the wider family. He proceeded on a three-year career of undetected crime until he met a Christian woman who informed him that his life style was wrong. It became David's opinion that Christianity was for people who had not, or could not, enjoy life, or stand on their own two feet. On the 16th of January 1970 David was arrested whilst he was experiencing a bad trip on LSD but not by the Police. It was by Jesus Christ who spoke to him after he had cried out to God for help. Jesus said to David that the horrors that he had experienced on LSD were nothing compared to what hell was like. David turned away that Friday night from a sinful life of crime and immorality to follow Christ, as best he could. David began to read the bible immediately, and other Christian books, and attend a wide range of churches. He finally confessed to the police to 24 crimes that he had committed during his release from Borstal, in 1968 and conversion in January 1970. In 1974, David eventually joined the Bierton Strict and Particular Baptist Church. Then trained as a Lecturer and commenced teaching electronics at Luton College of Higher Education. In 1981, the Bierton Church became a Gospel Standard listed cause and in 1982 David was also called by the Lord and sent by the church to preach the gospel, as the Lord open up the way for him. In 1983, David sought to reach his old friends from the past and organized a preaching meeting at the Bierton chapel, inviting all his old friends to come and hear all what the Lord had done for him. David recalls that it became apparent after this meeting his real troubles began, and he seceded from the Bierton Church in 1984. An account of this secession was written by David's own hand entitled, *The Bierton Crisis*. The story is a complete account of David's early life and experience in the Bierton Strict and Particular Baptist Church. It concludes that even though David left in 1984 he continued a member of the church, as no disciplinary action was taken against him, or others who were scattered at that time. The Bierton Church was a Gospel Standard cause whose strict rules ensured that only the church had the power to terminate one's membership. The church did not terminate David or his wife's membership and so they remain members to this day. David remained the only male member, and sent minister of the church, when the remaining former members died, and the chapel closed for worship, in December 2002. The story continues to the time of Michael's arrest in the Philippines, in 1995, and his 16-year prison sentence. The story goes on through to Michael's own conversion from crime to Christ, in New Bilibid Prison. This had occurred after he was convinced that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the living God, through reading C.S. Lewis's book, *Mere Christianity*. It tells of his baptism, as a Christian in an old oil drum in that prison.

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