



# Cumbria Bible Challenge

## Testimony Seven

### Finding Forgiveness

#### Richard Taylor

original story at

<http://www.inspiremagazine.org.uk/articles?>



Richard Taylor was a schoolboy in Wales when his parents split up. He started hanging around with some older boys who were not a good influence. He first went to prison when he was 15 years old. By the time he was 18, he had committed 30 crimes. He was locked up for 23 hours a day, and he thought his life would never change.

There was a Bible in Richard's prison cell. He tore out a page and was about to tear out another when he began to read it instead. He read about Jesus and couldn't understand why such a good man was killed on a cross. He asked a vicar about it, and learned that Jesus had chosen to die so that he could be punished for the things that all humans— including Richard— have done wrong. Richard learned that God wanted to forgive him.

Richard prayed in his cell, "God, if you're there, change my life", he said. Nothing happened at first, but Richard kept on reading the Bible and learning about Jesus.

He began to pray regularly.

Two years later, he had an encounter with the living Jesus that *did* change his life. "I give my life", said Richard, and he knew that he was forgiven.

When he came out of prison, Richard used his experience as a criminal to show people how to protect their homes and businesses from crime. He starred in a TV programme called *It Takes a Thief to Catch a Thief*. And still, to this day, he spends most of his time telling people about how Jesus changed his life!

