

Bernadette left behind her Catholic upbringing and practised Zen Buddhism. In 1975 while staying in Germany she smoked Marijuana and began painting strange images and having nightmares. Afraid to sleep, she came back to England and went on a course of tranquilisers that helped her settle down. She worked in factories until 1980 when her dream of going to Art college was fulfilled but she still found no peace and began hearing voices in her head accusing her of being evil. Darkness descended. She suffered a schizophrenic breakdown and finished up in hospital. She was hallucinating for weeks and the doctors said she might not regain her sanity. She did not know who anyone was, even her own Mother.

She was aware one day of a leaflet by her bedside saying "Be still and know that I am God: Psalm 46:10" and from that time the road back to sanity began although injections and tablets took away all her joy and creativity. Standing at the top of the Art College building the dream had become a nightmare. She longed to throw herself off the building to end it all. 2 years later she begged the doctor to take her off the medication. He eventually did with a warning that without medication the illness could return. Two years later his words came true as she began to hear voices. She was practising Buddhism. Unsatisfied with that she began to ask God who He was. Could He help her? Then as she lay in bed, awake, worrying, a man in a cloak made from the brightest purest light enveloped her and filled her with love, joy and peace. His warmth washed over her and embraced her in liquid love. It felt incredible. She just knew then God held the world in his hands and knew she was healed of her illness. She was not a Christian but reading in an old Bible about Jesus Christ, the same warm love washed over her like a waterfall.

Bernadette's love for Jesus grew. She began a quest to find others who knew Him. In her search she found Spiritualists who said they knew Jesus and people who believed in Aliens said Master Jesus had visited the earth and some New Age people had experiences where they said they had met Jesus or Christ. She hardly noticed when peace went from her heart. Panic attacks, fantasies and depression began to return. She became suicidal. She turned to counsellors but no-one was able to help. Then she met a Christian and when he prayed for her she instantly felt better. When she turned to other beliefs she became depressed again. Only the God of the Bible seemed to help. She began to hear words in her head, not confusing or frightening, just quietly peaceful "I am the way, the truth and the life" John 14:6 and "Except you be born again you cannot enter my Kingdom" from John 3:3. She did not understand what this meant. She later learnt these words came from God's Word, the Holy Bible. A few weeks later she heard the same words. What did they mean? The next day she met the man who is now her husband. He talked about being born again and inviting Jesus into her heart.

She immediately responded in prayer, saying:

*"Jesus I turn away from my sin. I invite you into my heart, I give you my life, I believe you died for me and I want to live my life for you".* The most amazing peace and joy flooded her heart and any heaviness lifted. She felt alive for the first time in her life.

Bernadette then began a wonderful journey where gradually she was set free from her past. There were times when she thought negatively and the heaviness from the past threatened to overwhelm her but again and again Jesus sent the right people along to help her realise how much God loved her and how she cannot earn her salvation for it is a gift. She is still an artist and God is teaching her how to paint pictures inspired by Him. She sometimes prays for the sick and sees them healed. On two trips to Africa recently she saw people healed from blindness and witnessed the deaf hearing and the lame walking. Most of the team she went with saw miracles happen. Walking in the Grace of God, says Bernadette, is better than anything she could ever have imagined!

A fuller insight into Bernadette Owen's life experiences is covered in her book

"Pathway to Freedom" - [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)

Available by contacting Bernadette through this web site