

Meet the elder

NAME: Paul Reain

AGE: N/A. You're as young as you feel!

OCCUPATION: Digger driver/farmer

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY: Married to Judith, four boys aged 15-20—all students with part-time jobs.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN COMING TO 1ST

DROMARA?: I attended Sunday School up to the age of eight or nine and occasionally church at that stage. I later attended church in my late teens on an occasional basis.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AN ELDER?: 19 years

WHEN AND HOW DID YOU COME TO FAITH?: I made a profession of faith when I was 18. Previous to this seeds were planted in my thoughts on various occasions, eg Dick Saunders Crusade, Dromara, various missions and church services. Various Christian people were a witness to me in the way they conducted themselves—just a few to mention Elizabeth Walker, Myrtle Meeke and Marina Ball (all Sunday School teachers) and Ian McCullagh (BB).

Not unlike the Prodigal Son, the world had a draw on me and I thought I could run on my own.

I decided to go my own way—but decisions and choices have consequences, my relationship with God was cold, but He never left me nor forsook me.

No matter how much I tried to put God to the back of my mind, I couldn't.

I started to go back to church when I was 24. I knew I needed to get right with God and so a few weeks later in the quietness of my own home, I asked God to forgive me for turning my back on Him and I asked for help to live a Christian life.

The first person I told was Shaw and he gave me great encouragement, support and teaching and has been a big influence on my life then and from then on.

WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS IT MADE TO YOUR LIFE?: It has given me a whole new vision and direction in my life, also peace in my heart and hope for the future.



For me it was as big a change as turning a light on in the darkness.

A WORD OF WISDOM?:

1 ~ Two eyes to watch, two ears to listen, one mouth to speak

2 ~ A wise old owl sat on an oak, The more he saw, the less he spoke. The less he spoke, the more he heard. Why can't we be like that wise old bird!

FAVORITE HYMN OR SONG?: 'What kind of love is this'

FAVOURITE VERSE OR PASSAGE:

1 ~ Be still and know that I am God: Psalm 46:10; 2 ~ If God is for us, who can be against us.

TELL US SOMETHING WE MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU:

I played Gaelic football, long jump and high jump for an athletics club at Dublin.