



Salvation Stories

SALVATION IS A "BEFORE AND AFTER" EVENT!

John 9:25,35-38

By birth, I was a pious and evangelical Muslim. From boyhood, I was reading the Quran regularly in the early morning, performed prayer five times a day and fasted 30 days in the Islamic month of Ramadan. I was a Quran preacher. Though I tried to make satisfy the god of Islam, I could not. I did not find any certainty in eternal life.

A friend gave me a Bible and I began studying, though at first not believing it was infallible. I deeply researched the Bible; all of a sudden, I found a verse from the Bible. Mathew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." This promise was about my soul and me. I have gotten my Savior! It was the best joy and exciting matter of life.

I realized that I am a great sinner by birth. I cannot do anything for my life. I need a sinless person who can save my life. Only Jesus Christ can save my life because He is the sinless, Son of God, and a unique Savior of my life. I prayed to God in Jesus' name. "Heavenly Father, Thanks for your blessing and a great chance for me. Please pardon me! I have committed a lot of mistakes against you. I am a sinner and I have disobeyed you. I know that you are the Son of God, who came to earth, and died on the cross, and rose again on the third day to take away my sins and give me eternal life. There is nothing that I can do to earn my Salvation. Therefore, I ask you to come into my life and be my Savior and to be my Lord. Thank you, Amen."

God had turned my heart completely to Him. I had great difficulty in telling my family the truth. My family follows the Shariah law, according to the law a Muslim cannot convert to Christianity or any other religion. And if someone does so, the family and community go against that person. Anyone who kills such apostates is considered a hero by the society and God of Islam. I was terrified. I couldn't reveal the secret but I was looking for the right way to leave my home and move forward according to God's will. After a year I took baptism at Dhaka. After my conversion, I realized that this is my newborn life so, I should attest my faith to my family. At first I went home and met with my mother. (Because my mother was the ruling guardian, as my father passed away in my boyhood). I told my mother about my faith. My mother replied, "Have you gone mad?" I replied "No, Mother I am ok, But I am

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indeed a Christian and I have my Salvation. If you believe Christ as your Savior you can get Salvation now. The God I believe in is Merciful." Then I showed her some verses from the Holy Bible. She refused my word. After a moment my mother threatened me that if I say such a foolish words, you must get out of my home. I replied to her, "I will keep my faith. I can leave you but I cannot leave my eternal Father."

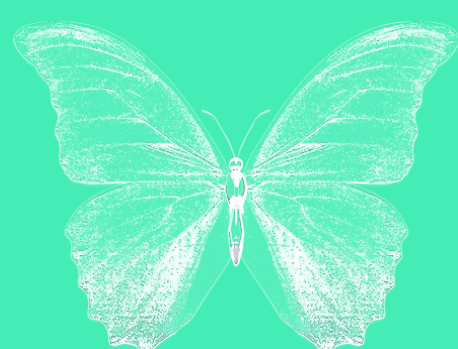
Then I left my home on the time which was set by God. I started walking alone on God's way having only clothes on my body. God chose me to become His witness before nations. God used me in different places for this purpose. I shared my testimony in different events and I was going everywhere God wanted to use me. As an evangelist, I used to share the Gospel and give people water baptism as well. I was also preparing others to serve the Lord. God is using me a lot in Bangladesh, especially in rural areas.

First and foremost I faced problems and threats from my family. I had left home and was living in the streets and forest. They started searching for me, my friends started searching for me as well. I had to flee and hide in other areas. I used to seek shelter in the farthest places and small towns where there were no links to my family. This is how God protected me for a short time.

When it became a known fact that I was a preacher and convert, many Muslims and Islamic scholars also came to know it. When it was known I was preaching in Church and that I converted from Islam many got very angry. They came to me expressing their anger. They had beaten me badly and campaigned against my studentship when I was a University student. They even started rioting there.

My duty was set as an evangelist. That is why I couldn't keep myself silent anywhere and I had to share the gospel. Whenever I shared the gospel, the information about me leaked out. Many Muslims have so much hate which fills their hearts. Due to that evil spirit, whenever they know about a Muslim converted to Christianity, they start protesting without having any link or relation with that person.

I hope the prevailing situation of Bangladesh is not hidden from you. The government and the people of our country are fighting against terrorism which has been, indeed destroyed the peace of our land. We, the believers in Christ, need to play a role as ambassadors of the "Prince of Peace" to this hopeless world. There are approximately 170 million Muslims in Bangladesh; just over 93 percent of the population. Outreach by Christian workers in the past led to some Muslims following Christ and forming local fellowships, but we are suffering from strong persecution and many have returned to their Islamic faith. There are now believed to be very few Muslim-background believers.



However, there is a growing sense of hope and expectation among church leaders and long-term workers. Pray for more workers to go and be ready for the harvest that God is preparing. Pray for church leaders to find strength and encouragement as we work together with a fresh vision of neighbors reaching our Muslim neighbors. Pray for the few local believers to be strengthened in their faith and for their fellow Muslims to be more open to the gospel.

Humble regards,

E. R. - Bangladesh