



Salvation Stories

SALVATION IS A "BEFORE AND AFTER" EVENT!

I was born and raised in a conservative Muslim family in Barishal, Bangladesh. Ever since I was ten years old I've been reading the Quran daily and performing my Islamic duties such as fasting and prayer. Then when I was twelve, I started going to the Friday prayer at the mosque next door every week.

As years passed by, my knowledge of Islam increased. I was extremely religious but I had no true relationship with the God I was worshipping; for I always had felt that there was a barrier separating me from God. That's why I tried to reach him by performing those duties such as prayer and fasting.

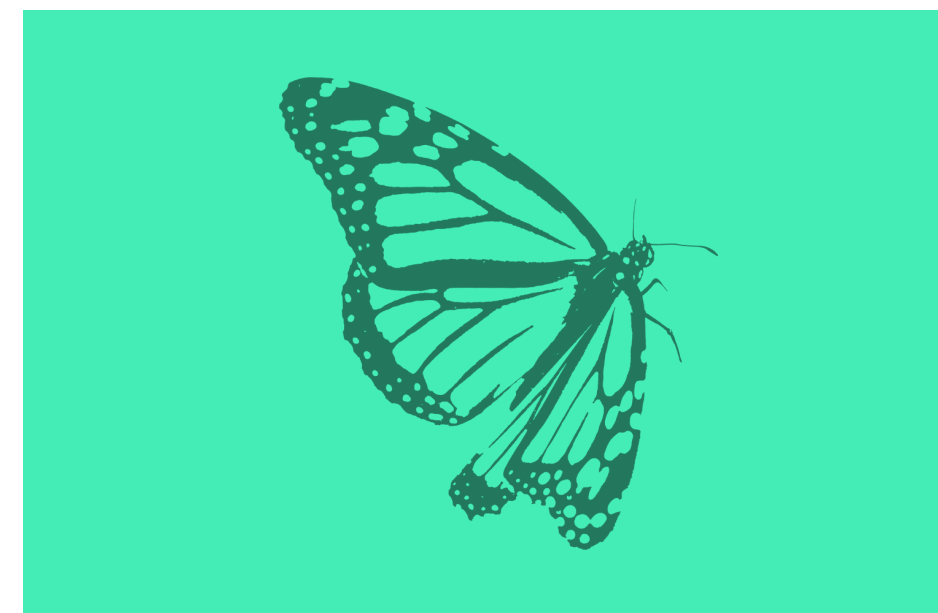
Despite my religiousness, I felt that there was a great void within me filling me completely. I never knew what my fate was after death.... For I worshipped God on the outside only. But on the inside, I was a slave to many bad habits and lusts. I couldn't break free from those habits by fasting, praying, or trying to lead a spiritual life. What I truly needed was a heavenly force which would free me and break me loose from the bondage of sin.

Through reading the Quran I discovered the greatness and uniqueness of our Lord "Isa (Jesus)" the Christ. He was wonderful and magnificent... for he's the Word of God... a Spirit of God... and our intercessor in this life and the life to come.... he is close to God... he is the pure sinless child... he came to this world miraculously, for he was born of a Blessed Virgin untouched by man.

Add to all that the fact that he lived a life free of sin and lust for the Quran says that all Prophets have sinned and asked for forgiveness from God, that is except for our master "Isa (Jesus)" the Christ. The Quran also says that he performed great miracles unmatched by anyone else. All of that made me wonder.... Who is this "Isa (Jesus)"? Is he a mere Prophet? Or is he something greater? Why has the Quran given him all these privileges?

With all the confusion I had, I thought I ought to search for the truth no matter what it would cost! So I endeavored on reading the Quran from beginning to end deeply. That was when I came upon a verse there, "If thou wert in doubt as to what We have revealed unto thee then ask those who have been reading the Book from before thee:

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the Truth hath indeed come to thee from thy Lord: so be in no wise of those in doubt. [Quran, Yunus 10:94, Yusuf Ali's translation]". This verse was the key to answering all my questions and removing all my doubts... so I wondered, who are those who were reading "the Book" before the Muslims?

The answer came to me from the Quran itself! Those are the Jews and Christians – for the Quran calls them "the People of the Book" because they have the Torah and the Injeel (Gospel), and the Quran orders every Muslim who doesn't understand it to go back to the Torah and the Injeel (Gospel).

Torah and the Injeel (Gospel).

That very day, I hurriedly bought a copy of the Holy Bible by Pastor Edward Reaz Mahamud I started reading it... in it, I felt that the words of our Lord "Isa (Jesus)" cannot be the words of men; for no man or prophet dare say that he is the Way, Truth, and Life...

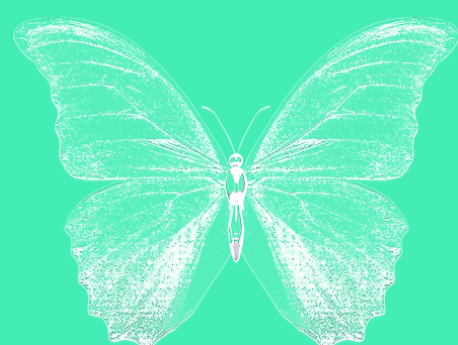
No one comes to the Father except through me [John 14:6]" ... "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. [John 8:12]" ... I decided that I should study the life of our Lord "Isa (Jesus)" Christ in more depth, for I was overwhelmed by great passion to know more about his unique character.

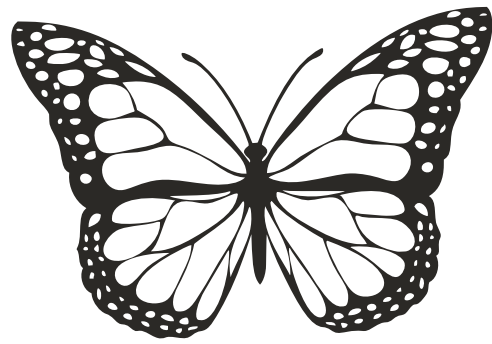
I read in the Holy Bible that our Lord "Isa (Jesus)" the Christ came to the world to save man from sin, and to set him free from bondage to the Devil. I realized the truth of the Gospel in my personal life, and I found in the sinless person of our Lord "Isa (Jesus)" the Christ... well, I found in his sacrifice the solution to the problem of sin in my life. For in his crucifixion is the atonement for all my sins and iniquities. I decided to seek him and his precious blood for shelter because he is the one who died instead of me and shed his holy blood for me!

I couldn't achieve salvation on my own, not by doing good words or my duties or anything else for that matter. So I decided to submit my life to him. On that very day, I bowed my head and asked the Lord to forgive me for my transgressions. Finally, I accepted Jesus as my Savior.

God made me a Recruiter for Him and a Fisher of Men.

Now that I have eternal life, I have peace with God and joy in the journey of life. The Lord also gave me a calling to evangelize daily and have a purpose for living and a passion for people and what they do. He made me an executive recruiter for God and a fisher of man. I daily witness and share the Gospel with people whenever I have an opportunity as I recruit and place professionals within their careers and before the throne of God.





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I believe God uses questions and our circumstances in life to bring us to Him for his glory and our good. The answers will come at the right time if we truly seek him and ask with all that is in us. (Matthew 7:7) It became clear to me after he opened my eyes and ears to the truth of the reality of salvation found only in Jesus Christ as Lord. He gave me the understanding to know Him by His Grace and to love His ways and a love for people.

Now that I obtained grace and mercy from God through Jesus Christ, I have confidence in Christ and I know that I have eternal life and have peace with God forever and inexpressible joy in life.

Please pray for me and my wife. As we are working with PAYRA and trying to glorify Him. Amen

Khokon Fakir