



# Salvation Stories

**SALVATION IS A "BEFORE AND AFTER" EVENT!**

God has been faithful in my life in nurturing and equipping me to know him better every day and follow him day by day. I take this opportunity to remind myself about God's gracious love that manifested in my life up to today. As I look back, I remember the days of God's miraculous healings and supernatural provisions and guidance that molded me a lot. It doesn't mean that I lived a perfect Christian life throughout my life. For me, it is an affirmation of God's love and patience in disciplining a weak person like me. God has blessed my marriage with a godly and beautiful wife and two kids.

During my school days, reading missionary biographies considerably impacted my becoming a missionary. Though I wanted to live a godly life when I was a teenager, I was irritated by seeing many Christian leaders' wrong and selfish motives. Gradually, I became a secular person and moved away from the Lord over time. I had many questions about Christianity and its relevance in today's world and our problems. However, when I started to attend a weekly bible study, I got answers to all my questions and became a follower of Jesus Christ. As I read the Bible and attended bible study regularly, my faith and conviction about Jesus became stronger. So I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour at eighteen. When I was doing my bachelor's degree, I wanted to become an affluent person to contribute more to Christian Missions. But God made me realize that he wants me, not my money. I understood that if God sent his one and only Son Jesus for me, I should not hold anything for me. With this conviction, I committed my life to work for Jesus Christ in 1999.

At first, I started my career as a medical executive soon after completing my undergraduate degree. As I was successfully working in one of the top pharmaceutical companies in India, I received the call to serve the Lord full-time. So, I resigned from my job and started working as a village evangelist. As I went through many nearby villages, I realized that I needed some training. I joined as an assistant worker to my church pastor and was involved in various church-related activities for the next five years.

Meanwhile, God gave me opportunities to translate some important Christian books into the Tamil language. At the start of 2008, I moved to Bangalore in obedience to God's guidance. At that time, I knew little about Islam. However, The more I

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engaged with Islam and Muslims, the more I became aware of the pressing needs of the Christian mission to reach Muslims. To give proper answers to the Muslim accusations against the Bible and Christian faith, I started studying Islam and joined SAIACS to start my theological education in 2013. Since 2013, God has helped me learn Islam academically and used me to equip others to understand and engage with Islam and Muslims through seminars and workshops.

After completing my Mdiv, I joined SAIACS- Centre for Islamic Studies as the training coordinator in 2016. During my five years of work with SAIACS, I organized many seminars on Islam and programs for Christians and Muslim converts to help them understand Islam. When I coordinated an academic conference on Islam, on behalf of SAIACS-Centre for Islamic Studies with BRILL and CMR publications in 2017, I became aware of the immediate need for evangelical scholarship in the Study



of Religions and Islam. In my MTh thesis, to help Christians speak about the differences between the narratives, God helped me write an interesting thesis on Early Muslim narratives about the Story of Muhammad under Dr. Gordon Nickel's tutelage. I completed my MTh in 2020. My theological studies have been a great blessing for me to understand the Word of God and to explain it clearly to others. The Lord encouraged me to write a daily devotion to interpret the Bible faithfully during the pandemic. Through my daily journals, I am able to connect with my friends, who are Muslim converts from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. God's word has been a great encouragement and source of our family's strength at such a time as this. His word encourages me to consider the cost Christ has paid for us and the call he has placed in my life despite all the challenges.

I got married to Viniba in 2008, and we have two wonderful kids, Jeffrey and Kiruba. My wife is actively participating in women's ministry on our college campus and counseling people in need. Our prayer is to live a life that pleases God and do his will, nothing less, nothing more.

Arputharaj - India

