



Salvation Stories

SALVATION IS A "BEFORE AND AFTER" EVENT!

Before I accepted Christ: My name is Nur A Maznu. I am married, with a wife, two children, and three grandchildren. My family is a precious part of my life, and their presence has been a constant reminder of the importance of finding true meaning and purpose, a purpose that I ultimately discovered in Christ.

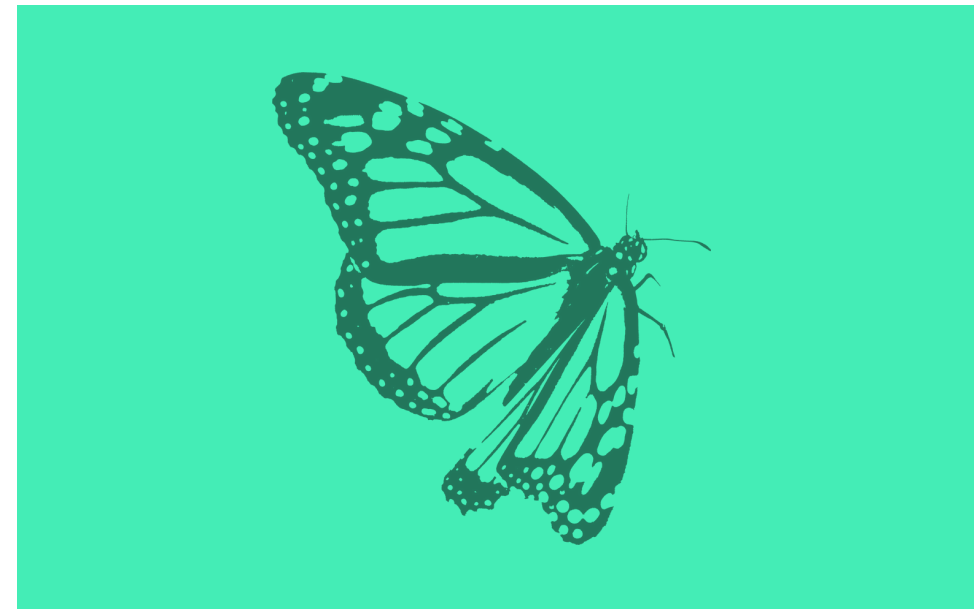
Before encountering Jesus, my life was marked by a deep and persistent search for spiritual truth. I followed the teachings of Lalon Fakir, a nonreligious saint who was widely known and respected for his humanitarian work and his emphasis on love and compassion. I admired his principles, his focus on serving others, and his rejection of religious dogmatism. I was drug addicted as the Lalonism believes that drug addiction is one of the ways to reach God easily.

I believed that his path offered a way to connect with a higher power and to live a life of meaning. I spent many years studying his philosophy, attending gatherings, and trying to incorporate his teachings into my daily life. Yet, despite my sincere efforts and my admiration for his example, I couldn't find the answers I deeply sought. There was a persistent sense of incompleteness, a feeling that something essential was missing. There was no clear path to salvation, no definitive assurance of what lay beyond this life, and no one who could definitively say, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." This absence of a clear direction left me feeling spiritually unanchored and yearning for a more concrete and certain hope. The lack of a personal relationship with a divine being was a void that no amount of humanitarian work or philosophical exploration could fill.

was it
for me?

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How I accepted Jesus Christ: The first seed of change was planted in 2007 when I had a providential encounter with Edward, who shared the Gospel with me during a visit to the University of Dhaka. This was a pivotal moment, a turning point in my spiritual journey, as it introduced me to the radical claims of Jesus in a way that resonated deeply with my longing for spiritual certainty and a personal connection with God. Edward spoke of Jesus not just as a teacher or a prophet, but as the Son of God, the Messiah, who offered forgiveness, salvation, and the promise of eternal life. He explained the concept of grace, the undeserved love of God, and the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross to reconcile humanity with God. This message of hope,



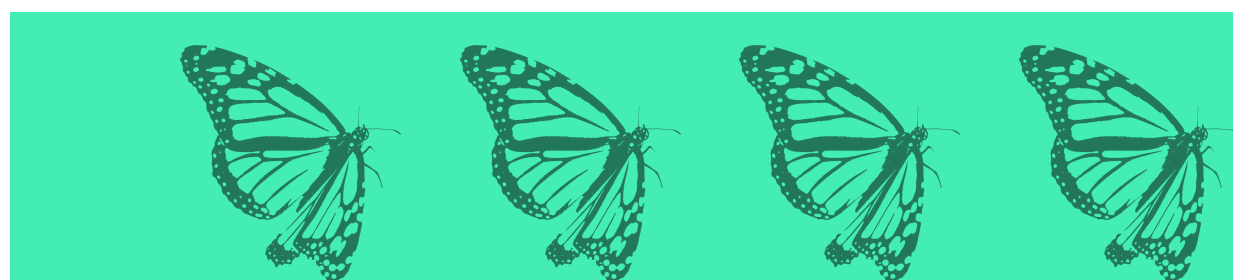
love, and redemption was profoundly compelling, and it sparked a sense of recognition within me, as if I had finally found what my soul had been searching for. It was a message that addressed the deepest questions of my heart and offered a solution to the spiritual emptiness I had felt for so long.

For twelve years, I remained a hidden Christian. This was a period of quiet reflection, internal struggle, and gradual growth in my understanding of the Christian faith. I continued to live outwardly as I had before, but inwardly, my heart was being transformed by the truth of the Gospel. I read the Bible in secret, prayed, and sought to deepen my relationship with God. I was aware of the potential risks and challenges of openly professing my faith, but the Holy Spirit was at work within me, convicting me of the truth and gradually strengthening my desire to share it with others. However, the tension between my growing faith and my external circumstances created a sense of unease. I longed for fellowship, for a community of believers with whom I could share my journey, but I also feared the potential consequences of revealing my true beliefs.

Eventually, the Holy Spirit moved me to share the Gospel. Lacking formal training and having lost contact with Edward, my attempts to proclaim my faith sometimes led to being beaten and insulted. I was driven by a deep sense of calling, a conviction that I could not keep this truth to myself, but my lack of preparation and guidance often made my efforts clumsy and ineffective. I encountered resistance, misunderstanding, and even hostility from those who did not share my beliefs. These experiences were discouraging and painful, but they also revealed my own need for deeper understanding and a more solid foundation in the Word of God. I realized that zeal without knowledge can be dangerous, and that I needed to be better equipped to share my faith effectively and with wisdom.

In my search for further understanding, I spent eight months with the SDA church, but I found some of their teachings to be inconsistent with the core message of the Gospel. While I appreciated their emphasis on certain aspects of Christian living, I became increasingly concerned about doctrinal differences that seemed to contradict the central message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. This experience highlighted the importance of discerning truth and the need for careful study of the Scriptures.

About three months ago, I encountered a video, "The Light Went Out" on Facebook that proved to be another turning point. I wrote to Was It For Me, and Jon Hileman responded to me with a big hug. This seemingly random event was, I believe, a manifestation of God's providence, a way for Him to guide me to the help and support I desperately needed. I reached out about my situation, sharing my story of seeking, finding, struggling, and yearning for deeper understanding. Through this connection with "Was It For Me," I found my lost brother Edward here, who is one of the team, and my spiritual life began to be restored. I now have the invaluable opportunity to learn the true teachings of Scripture in a clear and systematic way, to receive sound theological guidance, and to be part of a supportive community of believers. This community has provided me with a sense of belonging, encouragement, and accountability that I had long been missing.



The moment I knew I wanted to follow Jesus was not a single, dramatic event, but a gradual and unfolding realization. It was a process of the

Holy Spirit working in my heart, illuminating the truth of the Gospel, and drawing me into a deeper relationship with Christ. This realization was influenced by:



- The initial Gospel message from Edward, which planted the seed of faith and introduced me to the person and work of Jesus.
- The stark contrast between my previous spiritual searching and the clear, life-giving message about Jesus, which offered a definitive answer to my deepest questions and a concrete hope for the future.
- The persistent and undeniable prompting of the Holy Spirit, who convicted me of the truth, guided me through my doubts and struggles, and ultimately led me to surrender my life to Christ.

The "one thing I know" now that I have encountered Jesus is that He is the only way, the truth, and the life. This is not merely a theological concept, but a living reality that has transformed my heart, my mind, and my entire existence. I know that salvation comes through faith in Him alone, and that there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. This knowledge is the foundation of my hope, the source of my joy, and the driving force of my life.