

TESTIMONY  
**ONE**

A **TESTIMONY**  
FROM A  
BELIEVER IN  
IRAN...

WHERE FAITH COSTS

THE MOST



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## I HAVE FOUND EVERYTHING IN CHRIST

**Marmar became a believer four years ago through a friend's witness. Now she witnesses to others. This is her story.**

"My grandfather was a fundamentalist Muslim. I was married off when I was 13 and had my first baby at 15. When he was 2 years old he passed away, and my husband blamed me for this. It was very painful for me. I asked Allah, 'Why?'"

"Then my sister died in a car accident. Again I asked Allah, "Why?" I began trying to find Allah desperately. I prayed the Muslim way, fasted and read the Qur'an. I had many questions. But Allah had no answers.

"A friend of mine accepted Jesus at that time. I was interested in other religions and went to him to learn about Christ. He mentioned a Bible verse that really struck me: 'All who are weary, come to me and I will give you rest.' I urgently needed rest, but I was scared to convert. So I prayed: 'God, I did not find you in Islam. If I don't find you here, I will return to Islam.' God came close to me through the Holy Spirit and answered all my questions through prayer, in my heart.

"Then I saw a film on Luke on TV. It touched me so much that I accepted Jesus as my Saviour. I started reading the New Testament and also went to church. I was not afraid to tell people I had become a Christian and soon 16 people from my family became Christians as well.

"After a year I was arrested for being an active Christian. I spent eight days in isolation. They said I would be kept in prison for eight years, and then killed. I was very scared. I was brought before a judge, and I couldn't stop crying. I told the judge this was not because of fear, but because of the love of God. I said: 'All you can do is kill me, but then I will go straight to Christ.' I was given the choice to say that I was wrong. But I answered, 'I have found everything in Christ; Islam cannot give me the same.'

"During my days in prison, I would have 15 minutes a day in the fresh air. One day, the Lord told me during these 15 minutes that I should return to my cell and pack my things. And while the door was open, guards came and told me I was allowed to leave. I was set free!"

Marmar has now moved away from the city where she used to live. But despite her ordeal, she continues to share her faith in Jesus. "My gift is reaching out with the gospel," she said. "I talk to people one-on-one about God, through the help of the Holy Spirit."



TESTIMONY  
**TWO**

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## GOD IS THE LOVER AND I AM THE LOVED ONE

**Rambod (37) comes from a Muslim family but became a Christian after a friend invited him to a Christmas service at church.**

"I became a Christian when I was 20 years old. At that time I was not a real Muslim anymore, although I was searching for God in my heart.

"I was invited by a friend to attend church around Christmas. I went there and got a New Testament from my friend. That evening I read it till 2 o'clock in the morning. I started with Matthew, read through the other Gospels and was curious about Revelation. Then something exploded in my brain and I knew for sure that I had found the answer to my questions about God. I found out that God is the lover and I am the loved one. I started to cry and surrendered my life to the God of the Bible. I started to go to church, read books and develop my Christian faith.

"My wife is also a Christian. We met at the youth group. But my family is Muslim. They did not agree with my choice, and did not come to our wedding in the church. This gives us both a lot of pain.

"It is so difficult to survive in Iran as a Christian; anyone can be a potential enemy. We are not able to talk to each other freely in our house, so we 'play the game', pretending there is nothing wrong. But not being able to communicate about our faith creates a lot of tension. Sometimes we write down the things we want to talk about.

"I do not know how long I can bear this situation. We don't compromise our faith, but we have to be so careful. My wife is very afraid, especially that they will kidnap our child. Both of them live in fear.

"I love to teach and I have already taught in several cell groups. Fellowship among Christians is very important. I also lead Bible studies for 10 or 12 individuals on a regular basis."

*Photo changed for security reasons*



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TESTIMONY  
THREE

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## HE SAID TO ME, 'COME AND FOLLOW ME'

**Miriam\* was born into a Muslim family, but came to know Jesus through a series of dreams.**

"I had a dream that was repeated three times. In it I saw a man. I asked him, 'Who are you?' and he said to me, 'Christ, Mary's son.'

"He told me to take off my shoes and sit down. Then he looked into my face and said, 'Forgive everybody and don't forget three things: live in God, hope and love.' Then he said to me, 'Come and follow me.' When I woke up my heart was thumping and I was very anxious because this was the first time that I saw Christ.

"When the authorities knew I was a Christian they shut down my office and cut my salary. They controlled all my phone calls. Two or three times I was called to the court and they told me that if I went to church I would be in danger: maybe somebody will attack me and rape me.

"Another time I went to the prison because they wanted to speak to me. They closed my eyes with something black and took me underground where it smelt very bad. I sat in a chair and the man behind me opened my eyes and said, 'I want to show you a film.' At first I thought he was joking. But then I watched the film, and it was very bad. It had a very bad effect on my mind. It was about the rape of women and girls in the prison. They wanted to say to me indirectly, 'If you go to church, we will do this to you.'

"I am single. But some believers have it more difficult than me because they are married with children and the government doesn't let them register their children at school. Christians are always treated as second-class citizens. The government won't let them start their own businesses.

"But I never wish I hadn't had the dream. All the time I say to God, 'You give me everything, but the most precious thing you have given me is salvation in Christ.'

"Please pray for Christians who live in Iran, because in Christ all of us are one family. Colour and nationality is not important – just what is in our hearts."

*\*Name and photo changed for security reasons*



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