**Baptism Testimonies 18th March 2018**

A

I haven’t had a good past. I was drowned in sin and wicked and through things I saw in Islam, I decided not to believe in anything. This was until I discussed my beliefs with one of my decent friends. He started to give me peace and make me believe that there’s something out there. He gave me some notes that later I understood where from the New Testament.

Then when he demonstrated that all the notes were from the bible, first I told myself “oh another religion again”. But he emphasised on my trust to him and the peace I was given through these words and kept insisting by these reasons to read the bible. So I started from the chapters he had given me. First were boring but as the time passed made me go through deep thoughts. Luke 11:9 and the Lord’s Prayer became the talk in my head. John 8:12 and again Luke 11:9 changed my life because I asked him to bring light, peace in my dark life in order to live as a good child of God.

Baptism was something I had never experienced in my life. After you read the bible and then get baptised, they change your opinion about life but it doesn’t mean I don’t have to watch my behaviour anymore cause every minute there’s a new temptation.

And the end, I’m really happy to tell everybody who hasn’t experienced baptism, run to the Lord and wash away your impure thoughts.

S

In the name of God and his only Son Jesus.

 I was born in Ir\*n into a religious family. My father was a believer Islam and taught us about religion, prayer, sin and hell. My father's insistence had adverse results and I became opposed to religion. Although he was my first love in life, we had problems when we talked about God.

 I was in my twenties when my father passed away, and that created my biggest problem with God. I felt terrible, and I left my god. I had pain in my heart, loneliness in my mind, and darkness everywhere. I felt as though I was blind.

One day my sister wanted me to go with her, and we went to a church to pray to God. It was a strange feeling: so nice and so warm. Maybe that was the first light in my life. Then my sister left our country and I was alone. Many years passed and I was looking for the lost part of my heart.

Three years ago, I had some emotional problems, I needed some help, so I look toward God. I studied many books & I compared them. I felt Jesus was the nearest to my heart and to my thoughts.

Then I met a friend and we discussed about our sad stories, she told me we need to repent to God. After that we started to pray and read the Holy Bible. It is now over a year since I repented of all my sins and came to know and trust Jesus Christ as my saviour and lord. Now I feel at peace and I know his love.

I pray that God will bless us all.

F

My name is F. I am from Ir\*n. For as long as I remember, my imagination about God was an angry and scary god behind a black curtain in the darkness. I imagined that he always was chasing my mistakes and faults to punish me. Although, I was trying to take that imaginary barrier off and passing the darkness, that black curtain and the darkness had been making the distance between me and god bigger and bigger and this pointless effort had raised disappointment in me.

This fictional scary, punishing and angry God inside me disappeared when Jesus Christ stepped into my life, took my hand and talked to me about God of mercy, kindness and love. Now I know God is not angry, instead, his love to us is so amazing that he sent his only son on earth to be sacrificed for our sins. I am grateful to the gracious God for the new life that he has gifted me and he has showed me the only way to have a relationship with him.

This, has been done through Jesus Christ going on the cross to bring God’s peace to my life. Now, I testify that Jesus Christ is my Lord and my Saviour and just through him I would be able to turn away from darkness and see the light. I admire and adore my Lord with all my heart and soul and ask the father God to send the Holy Spirit to help me to grow in Jesus and continue his way in the rest of my life.

May the father God bless you all

Amen

F

Hello everybody

My name is F.

I am from Ir\*n. My story is long, but to cut the long story short, I am going to talk briefly. When I was in Ir\*n I was invited to a home-party and Christianity was introduced to me in that party by one of my best friends. I had missed something in my life and this introduction motivated me to find out this missing part and discover the answers of my no responded questions. I could find some answers by participating in those lessons regularly. However, because of the strict rules and surveillance in Ir\*n, particularly about converting to Christianity, I was not able to figure out all of them.

When I came to the UK and Stockton On Tees, I started attending the alpha course in Stockton Baptist Church and it was here where I could achieve most answers of my questions. Three weeks ago, I had to go to James Cook Hospital for the surgery that should be done on my throat for removing a tumour from my larynx. After the surgery, when I was in the recovery room, a strange environment, being in agony and still not fully conscious, I prayed to Jesus Christ with closed eyes and asked him to help me to be released of that severe pain. All of a sudden, I felt a hand stretched to me and calling me to stand up. Amazingly, the pain vanished instantly.

When I woke up in my room, I asked for a pen and paper, because I was not able to talk. The person next to me was my interpreter. He took something out of his pocket and told me “you have written this in the recovery room”. It was written on the paper, " I'm a Christian and he came to take my hand and calling me to get up". All the staff were astonished by this happening that why I didn't have any pain. This was the time that I have realised that I have given my heart to my Lord and My saviour Jesus Christ and through him the Father God sent his Holy Spirit to help me and save me, because I was chosen by him.

Now in the presence of all you ladies and gentlemen I confess that Jesus Christ is the only son of the living god and he as an innocent person has burden our sins on his shoulder and went on the cross to forgive our sins.

Therefore, I am going to be baptized, because he was baptized and also it is his command that we should be baptized to show other members of this Holy family which I would like to be part of this family. Also, I am going to devote my life to introduce the God’s love, the good news to other people. May my Lord and my Saviour helps me to do it under the guidance of his Holy Spirit.

Amen

H

Hello everyone, As you may know, I was born in Ir\*n into a religious family. Since childhood I became acquainted with the God of Islam,the God who was waiting for my smallest disobedience to punish me as hard as he could.

I was trying to make him satisfied all the time, by doing all the duties of a Muslim.

And when I couldn't manage to do the things that I was supposed to, I felt like I was the most guilty person in the world. I was exhausted as I even had to talk to him in a language that was not my mother tongue.

I found it hard living among people who claimed to be very faithful and to be the men of god although their behaviour did not reflect this. As a consequence I became far away from Allah.

I began questioning my faith when I heard about the Lord Jesus Christ through a friend. My heavenly Father showed me He is holding my hand tightly and He would never ever let me be alone in this world. The Father who is the God of love, kindness and hope.

The God who loves us so much that he sent his only Son to die for us on the cross for our sins. I have been born again in the Lord Jesus Christ and I am truly alive and there is no curse or condemnation on me in the name of Jesus Christ.

I testify that I am genuinely sorry for the sins that I have done and I want to start a new life in the name of Jesus Christ and love Him with all my heart. I believe in God, the Father who created the world. I believe in God, the Son who died for me on the cross and rose again in three days. I believe in God, the Holy Spirit who fills me with his love. I promise that I will follow Jesus throughout my life and evangelise others. And I am the daughter of God

Amen

H

My name is H. I am from IR\*N.

I had turned away from God for many years. since four months ago that one of my friends" A” talked to me, and explained something that they were new and interesting to me. Something about Jesus and how we will be forgiven and be saved because of what he has done for us on the cross.

Also he invited me to the Stockton Baptist Church and it was the time when I was able to talk to God through Jesus Christ.

I was a person who had missed the way and direction, but I have been chosen by my Lord "Jesus Christ" to find the way and being saved. He helped me to make a good relationship with God and receive his grace. Now I feel God deeply in my heart because of Jesus Christ; the only son of the living God and my saviour.

Therefore, I am going to be baptised to follow my Lord's command and also show you beloved ones that I passionately want to be part of his holy family.

God's peace be with you

Amen

M

Hello everyone,

As you might know I was born in a Muslim family in Ir\*n. I grew up in a good and loving family. About the age of 17, because of living in a religious country my mind was full of questions about the existence or absence of God and religion. There was not any convincing answer for my questions and day after day, my spiritual thirst became more and more. About two years ago in this church as soon as I got to know the one and only true God, my spiritual thirst was quenched, and I found the inner peace that I was always looking for.

About two years ago I started a journey. A journey full of joy and excitement, a journey with my best friend and companion, a journey that all of us have started with our Lord and Saviour, a journey that will last forever.

In this journey Jesus Christ has taught me that life is like a ship in a sea that sometimes is turbulent and sometimes is still and quiet and he is the helmsman of this ship, as long as He is in control, I should not be afraid of anything and only follow Him. His light and righteousness healed my blindness and gave me a new life.

Today I stand here to celebrate this new life and one more time declare that I am son of the living and everlasting God and my new life has been built on a rock that will never be destroyed and will always live a life full of joy and light in all circumstances with my lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

In the name of the father, the son and the holy spirit, Amen.