

## My Story

I was born in Houston Texas into a family with a Muslim father and a Catholic mother. Needless to say this was an interesting combination, one that provided too many obstacles for my parents to work through. Their divorce when I was 11 years old was more traumatic than I can even remember leaving a gaping wound in my heart.

In spite of my parents divorce, my father still exerted substantial influence on my life including guiding into Islam. Throughout my childhood, I consistently went to the mosque with my father and even fasted during the Muslim Holy month of Ramadan. Even though I did not understand all the aspects of the Islamic faith I did not believe that Jesus was anything more than a prophet and that his death on a cross was complete fiction.

My senior year of high school I was introduced to a family who took a keen interest in my life. I didn't know it at the time, but they were dedicated Christ followers and they took it upon themselves to show me the reality of Christ. They never preached to me, they just opened up their home and their lives and invited me in. Through their love, Christ became real and tangible and someone to whom I wanted to give my life. And I did. Sitting on a road in the country, looking up at the stars I asked Jesus to forgive me for my mistakes and I gave him my life to do with as he saw fit.

Since that day, my life has never been the same. After graduating from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Marketing, God opened a door for me in fulltime ministry. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be a minister. He has allowed me to make great friends, assist others through tough times, and help me believe that my life has meaning far beyond what I see with my own eyes. Yes, there have been tough times, some by my own stubbornness, some from God's divine plan, but he is always there.