



Brother G (house church network pastor)

Family Background

In 1987, when **brother G** was 7 years old, his father decided that his son would join a Madrassah, a Koran school. The first 1,5 years, **G** only learned Arabic. Then he followed intensive Koran studies. He learned that the Bible is corrupted and that Christian missionaries are Satan's messengers. After 4 years, in 1992, the head of the school selected **G** with only 3 others to continue studying in Saudi-Arabia. **G** and his parents were very proud and felt very privileged that he was selected.

After 6 months, in 1992, he would leave for Saudi-Arabia. But in the meantime, **G** visited his sister (Shar*pat) and brother-in-law (Alt*nbek) and saw that they had a New Testament (Ingil) in their house. **G** rebuked them for this as he considered it a great sin. They did not respond and he concluded that they had become Baptists. Back home, he told his father and expressed his anger about this. But his father said: "I know that your brother-in-law is Baptist, but I like him. And as for your sisters, you may love the prophet Isa perhaps more than the other, but she is still Muslim."

Turning Point

G then decided to also study the Bible and convince his sister that the Koran is true and the Bible is not. When reading the Bible, **G** regularly got angry because of Jesus' statements about him: While the Koran says "Allah will teach you the truth", Jesus says: "I am the truth". While Mohammed called himself the slave of Allah, Jesus calls himself the Son of God. Also, it struck him that the Koran never mentions anything wrong about Jesus. Even Mohammed is described in his weakness, but not Jesus. In fact, the Koran speaks about the "perfect [sinless, righteous] Isa". The Koran also speaks about Isa judging the entire world, including creation. Even the Mahdi will give the sword to Jesus at the end of times.

G became more positively curious and visited the house church that his sisters appeared to be attending. His brother-in-law even turned out to be the leader of that house church. When visiting the church, he got answer to questions like: why do Christians believe in 3 Gods? And what does it mean for Jesus to be the Son of God?

The truth of 3 in 1 God- Trinity

One answer that **G** found very convincing was the following:

- "What do you feel at the first (Muslim) prayer in the morning?"
- **G**: "light".
- "What do you feel at the second prayer in the morning?"
- **G**: "warmth".
- "Right, so first we have the sun in itself, then it gives light and it gives warmth, but we don't refer to 3 suns. This is how you can understand the trinity: the sun in itself is the Father, the light is the Son, and the warmth is the Spirit. But still, we speak of one God."

Convinced by the answer, partly because **G** himself had this daily experience with the sun (rejoicing first in the first ray of light in the morning and then feeling the first warmth of the day), he finally surrendered and gave his life to Jesus in September 1992. He would not go anymore to Saudi-Arabia. His parents accepted it because they like their son-in-law and would not mind if **G** would become like him. Instead of going to Saudi-Arabia, **G** graduated from a normal high school, moved to Bishkek, met his wife Sof, was baptized, and became an active youth leader in a Baptist church. But this church was very conservative and introvert and **G** had the desire to work among Muslims. He knew that God wanted to use him to explain both Islam and the Bible to the Muslims and refer to Christ.

After 1 year of work in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, where he shared the Gospel while being a construction worker, he and his wife Sofia and oldest daughter Miriam were picked up by police and forced to leave the country within 72 hours. Then **G** and his family went to Baku in Azerbaijan to preach among Muslims and he and his wife studied at the Baku Bible College. In 2003, they moved to Xinjiang to work among the Uighurs and Kyrgyz. **G** and Sof earned a living by giving language courses in the evening. Since 2005, **G** works as pastor with the house churches in Kyrgyzstan. He and his wife now have 3 kids: Miri*m (2000), Deb*rah (2007) and Sam*el (09-09-2009).