



Daniel Shayesteh

Dr Daniel Shayesteh is an Iranian immigrant who arrived in Australia with his family in November 1991. Daniel is married to Mary and they have three daughters. He is Director of the inter-denominational organization "Exodus from Darkness" and a National Evangelist for the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia. Daniel lectured also a part time lecturer in International Business at the University of Technology Sydney for eight years.

Daniel was deeply involved in the Iranian Fundamentalist Revolution (1979) as a leading Muslim political leader and teacher of Islam and religious philosophy. He speaks three middle-eastern languages (Farsi, Turkish and Azerbaijani) and is an accomplished poet and classical middle-eastern musician. He was saved

wonderfully through Christ, when he escaped to Turkey after falling out of favour with Khomeini's political group (see Daniel's Testimony below). On his arrival in Australia Daniel sought fellowship with Christians from Islamic backgrounds. In 1994 he commenced studies at Morling Bible College and completed the Diploma of Theology and Pastoral Ministry. He also has a PhD in International Management that he completed in Turkey.

Daniel has been speaking to thousands of people across Australia and around the world (Europe, USA, Africa and Asia). He speaks openly and boldly about Christ and encourages those who hear him to do the same. Many times he shares his testimony. Daniel's testimony is a multi-dimensional message that tells about his life and world view in Islam, his encounter with Christ and his theological/worldview journey that has led to his position today as a Christian Evangelist. On other occasions he teaches and preaches about the nature of God (god) in the major religions of the world and points to the precious uniqueness of Christ (Rev. 19:16). He also teaches and preaches about "Influential Evangelism" and "True Peace".

Daniel has written two books to help Christians, including Young People, to understand the uniqueness of Christ.

1. Daniel's book **"Christ above all gods"** covers the basic difference among the nature and work of gods. It is for people who are willing to openly 'Search for Truth together'. It looks at the nature of God (god), sin and salvation in all the world's major religions and compares this with what we all find when we search the law of the conscience that is God-given and found in every human heart. The wonderful uniqueness of Christ emerges from this fascinating, rigorous and timely journey - a journey we need to undertake more than ever in this modern era of 'globalization'.

2. Daniel's book **"The Difference is the Son"** gives an amazing insight into Islam.

- What does a Christian from a fundamentalist Islamic background make of the differences between the Qur'an and the Bible?

In this book Daniel has compared the Bible and the Qur'an while at the same time reflecting on Islam's early history and contemporary message. His confident assertion is that Jesus, the Son of God and the Savior of the world, is what makes the Bible so different to the Qur'an.

The 'Difference is the Son' introduces the reader to the Qur'an (many Qur'anic passages are quoted) and illuminates their mind about the genesis of Islam and Islam's message today. Reviewing the history of Islam, as Daniel has done, is an interpretative work and Daniel has referred to many ancient and modern texts (both English and Persian) on this subject. The reader finds plenty in this book to get them thinking about how a '7th Century prophet', with significant links to the Christian church of the day, ended up leading a movement that, at its most radical, is an avowed enemy of the Son of God (for a Muslim there is no such person) and Christians and Jews.

This is a book that stimulates you to rethink your understanding of Christ's uniqueness and the religion of Islam. It also provides a good understanding of the assertions that radical Muslims make against Christianity when talking with Christians. This knowledge has helped many to have the courage to talk with Muslims and to love them, even when radical Muslims are aggressive towards Christians because of their faith in Christ.

Confidence is a beautiful gift to any soul and Daniel's message is always that 'Eternal Confidence is only found in Jesus Christ!' Once people read these books they will want to go into the world and share the wonderful good news of Jesus Christ like never before.

Brief insight into the Story and Testimony of Dr Daniel Shayesteh

"Mary and I were born into nominal Muslim families in a small city in Iran. We became fully involved in the fundamentalist Islamic movement shortly after the Islamic Revolution. Our common interest in the movement drew us together and we were married. This involvement caused me to advance in the politically oriented religion "Islam", and with the recognition and support of people in our city I announced my candidacy for the Islamic Parliament.

The bitter rivalry of Islamic politics which often leads to people being killed for their beliefs meant I was a threat to Khomeini's political group who wanted to govern at any cost. I was kidnapped by Khomeini's Revolutionary Military and placed in a death cell to await a death sentence. God in his love and graciousness had other plans for my life and unexpectedly I was temporarily released, but I was not allowed to work in my city, and neither was I allowed to leave my city to seek work in other areas. Finally, after two attempts, I escaped into Turkey - homeless and without family or friends. My loneliness was overwhelming at the time and I feared for my family's safety because of my escape.

A number of months later in Turkey, through a business deal that went wrong, I came into contact with a Christian group who encouraged and supported me during this time.

One day alone in Turkey I came to believe that the world and everything in it, including myself, was unjust. I started to complain to God (which god?), saying "Aren't you the almighty god? Should I suffer all my life? What is this life for? How can I get out of this life?"

That night I heard Jesus' voice in a dream, and the following Sunday I heard the preacher saying the exact words Jesus said to me in the dream: "Come out of your father's old house and live in a new house on the rock of Jesus" (based on Luke 6:48f). At the time, I didn't know that there is only One Almighty name by which man can be saved.

Yes, only one name, Jesus.

The preacher's invitation created in me a desire in my heart to ask for a book (New Testament) which would give me knowledge of Him through His words. By reading the NT, I discovered that God of the Bible, unlike all other gods who are impersonal, is personal and people can have personal relationship with Him in their lives on earth. Therefore, I believed in Him as my Creator, Saviour and Deliverer.

Later Mary and the children joined me in Turkey. My conversion was a shock to her. "How can a person change his or her religion?" were her words, yet she recognised a change in me. Some time later Jesus appeared to Mary in a dream, and through God's goodness and grace my wife, who was once a fundamentalist Muslim lady, came to the Lord.