

TESTIMONY, FAITH & CHURCH

Having grown up in a Brahmin Hindu household, I lived out my faith very zealously at home. Upon moving to the U.K. for school aged nine, I continued to practice Hinduism in a limited way. The secondary (Public) school that I moved to, Monkton Combe School, near Bath, is a school with a strong Christian tradition. Many of my very close friends were children of missionaries and we often debated and argued issues of religion as I being in the minority fought for Hinduism. As a self-confessed thirteen year old coffee addict, there were no opportunities to make coffee and one friend of mine discovering this early on invited me for 'Christian Bible Study' where the host teacher would offer biscuits etc. and COFFEE! At first I thought it was a trick and refused a first and then second week, but by the third week I succumbed of the temptation and went. Sure enough there were cakes, biscuits and COFFEE! I went a second week and a third week until weeks became months and then years. Over a period of time I came to understand the truth of Christianity (through the Bible study meetings) and discussed later with James Oakley - a particular friend (the least likely person I would ever normally have been seen with) - my objections. The spirit was clearly at work too! In my final school year, I evaluated the resurrection with careful scrutiny and concluded that, if true, it meant that Christianity was the only way. I prayed and, after a conviction of the spirit, put my faith in Christ aged 18.

I have never looked back on that decision and God has continued to guide and lead me despite challenges and much opposition. Throughout the course of my studies and in the workplace there have been some severe ups and downs but Christ Jesus has continued to guide and strengthen me in my walk with Him. I thank God for my parents and brother who, despite their very strong opposition, have never discriminated or been partial to me in any way, despite disapproving. As I have grown in Christ I have come to be more involved with my church, housegroup and many Christian activities and events. I continue to pray for friends, family and those who are yet to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as a person with whom they can relate. I believe that I am being called away from Mission and Development work into new areas in God's vision and for His purposes. To this end and to His service I commit my life and testimony.

- Member of a Baptist church in Reading, U.K. (since February 2002)
 - Baptised on 3rd February 2002.

As a church member, I have been involved in a number of different activities and leadership roles with my home church. These include Ice-breakers (7-11yrs children's play group), Men-4-God, Alpha, Beta (follow up course to Alpha), Tuesday Youth (13-17yrs community group) and Housegroup.

My favourite hymns are 'Amazing Grace' & 'Thine be the Glory'.

My favourite artist is William Holman Hunt

Gautam D. Money