



I was born in Iran and grew up in a Muslim family. Up to the age of 18, I was religious and followed the practices of Islam. After that, I became indifferent about religion. I used to be happy and full of energy but after seeing certain difficult things, I became depressed and didn't want to talk to anyone. Then I got to know someone where I worked who was always full of joy. Whenever he left the shop, he used to say, "God be with you". I got to know him better and one day, he invited me to his house for a meal. I told him about my depression and whenever I spent time with him, I came away feeling better.

One day I asked him how I could find the peace I saw in him. He told me about Jesus and that he was the Son of God. At first, I found it strange to hear that God could have a son, but he helped me understand more about Jesus and about me having a choice to follow Him. He invited me to go to his little house church and there I met with other Christians who were also full of love and peace. We read the Bible and prayed together but after going twice more, the police found out about our group and they arrested some of the church members. They were also going to arrest me so I had to leave the country.

When I arrived in Nottingham, I was told about Trent Vineyard by my friend Muhammed who also comes here.

The second time I came to Trent, there was an invitation for people to come forward to receive prayer. I went forward and as someone prayed for me, I closed my eyes and felt two hands on my shoulders. When I opened my eyes, there was only one hand and I believe the other hand I could feel was Jesus with me. It was an amazing experience.

When I first came to Trent, my mental health was in a bad place, but through being part of the church family, I'm getting better every day. While I was in Iran, I was learning about Jesus but still hadn't invited Him into my life. Being here has helped me know Him better and make a decision to follow Him. When I look back and see how God has helped me through my difficult journey, I'm so grateful that His presence has always been with me.

Thank you Jesus.