

Minister's Message – March 2008

The Sari Seller

While in India recently I took the opportunity to visit a friend. It was Sunday afternoon, and visiting him at the same time was a young Indian man. He was introduced to me as Kamal. My friend, Mr Singh, told me the story of this young man. He had come to Mr Singh's house about one year back selling silk saris. My friend told him he did not need any saris but thanked him anyway for coming.

Before the young man left the house my friend said he had something to give him. It was something very precious and important and he would like him to have it. My friend gave this young man a Bible. Kamal took the Bible and left. Some months later he returned to the house saying he had read this book. He was greatly moved by what he read and wanted to believe in Jesus. My friend was able to pray with Kamal and lead him to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Kamal is now studying the Bible in greater depth in a Bible college. It was wonderful to meet him at my friend's house and to pray with him. He was missing his family who lived in another city but he hoped to return soon and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with them. They were still worshipping idols as he once did, but he was praying that they, like him, would turn from the darkness of idolatry to the wonderful light of Jesus Christ.

Kamal had left selling saris to follow Jesus Christ. Peter and John were the very first disciples of Jesus. They left their business of fishing to follow Jesus when he called them. Jesus met them by the lake as they were washing their nets. He said 'follow me and I will make you fishers of men'. They left their nets immediately and followed Jesus. They did not know where Jesus would lead them. Jesus did not promise them riches and fame. But there was something different about this man.

Kamal's family and friends told him he was a fool for leaving his business and going off to Bible school. He could no longer buy the things he once – in fact he had to sell the things he had to go to Bible school. But being a new person in Jesus Christ he no longer wanted the things he once wanted. All he wanted was to know more about Jesus. He no longer lived the 'good life' but was now living the 'true life'. Do you know the true life?

Peter, who left his fishing to follow Jesus, was once asked by Jesus if he wanted to go back. What did Peter say to Jesus? He said *Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life* (John 6:68). Peter knew that Jesus was unique; he was a unique man. Jesus was not just a great teacher but was God in human form; he was *the word became flesh dwelling among us* (John 1:14). Like Peter, Kamal now knows this great truth about Jesus. He was called to follow Jesus with this great promise that in Jesus he has eternal life.

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