



NOT TOO FAR, NOT TOO LATE!

Forough's background.



Forough was born into a Muslim family in Tehran, the capital city of Iran, in February 1939. She married Shahab who became a manager of the Agriculture Bank. The two of them were married for fifty-six years. During those years Forough gave birth to their firstborn son, Shahriar, then to three daughters—Sharzad, Lili, and Ladan. Over the years, Forough and Shahab moved to different Iranian cities due to Shahab's work, and settled in 2013 in Northern Iran, near the Caspian Sea.

The same year, Forough came to the United States to visit her daughter Lili, who had married Rahi many years before. Together, they had left Iran, finding asylum in Cyprus with their son Sam before being admitted to the United States. Forough, then, had not seen Rahi, Lili, and Sam for 6 years, and not since Rahi and Lili had become Christians.

During the visit, Rahi and Lili were keen to share with Forough their newfound faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Feeling that she had just come for a vacation, Forough was not interested to learn more of Jesus. Rahi and Lili decided, accordingly, simply to live their Christians lives before Forough and to let them do the talking. Since Forough had not seen authentic Christianity in practice before, she became curious as to their faith.

Providentially, delayed from returning to Iran due to ill health, Forough began entering into conversation about Christianity. Not content to hear from her family, she asked to meet the Christian



equivalent of the Imam (teacher in the mosque). Over the course of the next months, Forough posed her questions to the pastor about the Christian faith and she processed the answers received. Especially telling was her repeated remark to the pastor and his wife, “I see light about you.” It was the reflected light of Christ shining through his people.

Before long, Jesus had met with Forough. She was taught the essentials of the Christian faith as summarized by the Apostles’ Creed and was baptized in the church on her last Sunday in the United States, September 15, 2013. The occasion was memorable as Forough, in Middle Eastern fashion, lifted high the Farsi Bible given her to mark the occasion, as if to say that this was the Holy Book through which God had spoken to her. Returning to Tehran, Forough went to be with her Savior less than two years later, around midnight on Monday, March 2, 2015, dying in hospital in Tehran due to a bleeding stomach.

Forough’s testimony.

Almost four years ago I heard that Lili and Rahi had come to Christ. I could not believe it and was saddened by the news. Yet, I did not take it seriously, that is to say, until six months ago when I came to America and recognized that they had become earnest believers and very insistent that I, too, believe in Jesus Christ.

I was very sad. When they spoke about the Word of God and of Jesus Christ during the first two months, I just got angry and told them to please stop. I even told them that if they continued, I would go back to Iran, for I had just come for a visit and not to change my religion. I asked them not to speak any more about Christianity. They spoke no more about their faith, but I saw in their actions how they lived their lives. A miracle had happened to them. I also saw their contact with the church and other believers. This made me think deeply about Christianity. I had many questions about it. A few times, when Dr. Tim



Forough Pirseyedi, 1939-2015
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visited me, he answered my questions very logically and I really felt comforted. I recognized that I was living as a Muslim only in name, and was not really a Muslim. In fact, I did not have any religion.

I discerned in all this the plan of God. He brought my children to the United States and then he brought me to visit them, and, in doing so, to meet Jesus Christ. I saw, thereby, the need to believe in Jesus Christ. I am so glad and thankful for that. At last, at the age of 74, I now recognize my religion. I found and chose it, but, of course, I should say that God chose me and found me and gave me in Jesus the grace of salvation.

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

What I meant for evil, God meant for good!

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