

WONDERFULLY SAVED From RELIGION And From A So Called CHRISTIAN CULT



Hieu Ngo is an accountant by profession. He was born in Saigon, Vietnam in 1973 during the Vietnam War. His family fled from communist persecution on a fishing boat across the perilous China Sea. The boat was no longer than eleven metres in length but had one hundred and ten passengers on board! It was a miracle how they all managed to reach safe shores. They came to Australia in 1981 as political refugees and settled in the Bankstown area, south west of Sydney where he completed his education and university studies. His parents raised him up a Roman Catholic as best they could saying if you're honest, good and dedicated to church attendance, God might spare you from "purgatory" and let you into his heaven.

Read Hieu's amazing account of how God rescued him from the bondage of religion and from a subtle yet dangerous Christian cult which almost costed him his soul.

As a young boy I always believed in God who was "somewhere out there". The nuns taught me the Catholic church was the "one true church" founded by Jesus Christ. I loved children's bible stories when I was in year seven, especially

David & Goliath; Samson; Joseph & his jealous brothers; Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. I didn't read the bible but loved adults tell stories from it. In fact, Catholics were generally not encouraged to study the scriptures as the priest say it might create more confusion. So leave the interpretation and explanation to the "theological experts". Therefore, I accepted everything they said without question given the priest represented a mediator between God and the people. The belief that there is no salvation outside Roman Catholicism brought me a feeling of security and comfort. I felt safe under the shadow of the "holy mother church" which was held to have existed a long time ago through tradition.

However, I became cynical and tired of the repetitive religious rituals of the Mass during my mid-twenties. I often snoozed during the service. I would go to confession - say my penance and then commit the same wickedness again. It was a hopeless feeling and fruitless cycle. Therefore, I became weary of trying to be righteous before God. I knew deep down I could not make it.

A restless heart falling into lust and carnality

Money and riches became my sole purpose in life from 1998. I was involved in a number of direct network marketing programs so I could get rich quick and retire early. The failed schemes shook me and the disappointment drove me into sensuality and pornography. I was mad at lot of people and many other things and only cared about myself. I fought at work and disrespected my superiors. I drank at parties and threw up outside restaurants and clubs. In summary, I was a depraved and selfish creature deserving hell and punishment. I always knew that. That fear lingered in the back of my mind, but I shrugged it off for many years. Would the long forbearance of God soon run out for me?

Crossing paths with a Jehovah Witness

In April 2004 I crossed paths with a Jehovah Witness who introduced me to some Awake and Watch Tower (WT) literature. I read the material and felt encouraged. They appeared to offer some hope and answers to my dilemma. I was impressed by their supposed wisdom and

reasoning as they addressed life's issues and problems using certain scriptures to back up.

So my interest grew rapidly as I studied their magazines turning to "familiar and recurring" scriptures noted in the material. I thought I was advancing in my study of the bible based on their program and thought I had a purpose to living. I felt good about it and sensed a belonging and brotherhood with the Witnesses. They were all nice and friendly to me. They said if I serve Jehovah God, take in knowledge of him and be part of his congregation under the stewardship of the "faithful and discreet slave" I will be able to live forever on paradise earth. Wow! How could I resist this offer? The Watch Tower Society is this group of "anointed" Christians alive on earth who could exercise teaching authority in all matters concerning doctrine and articles of faith. They are the "remnant" of the 144,000, whose members are expected to ascend to heaven at death.

My wife Mimi became increasingly concerned about my involvement as she observed my extreme pervert position on certain topics such as blood transfusion, birthday and Christmas celebrations, etc. She discussed it with her work colleagues and finally with my mother and elder sister. I was upset with her and defended the organisation passionately.

They all desperately talked me out of it fearing I had been indoctrinated or brain washed. Moreover, I accused them for saying negative things about it considering all the worthy things it has done. I even compared it to Jesus' case who received similar discrimination from his own relatives and town's folks. They were all shocked at what they had heard. This was not the person they once knew. They thought, how could he have changed so much having been exposed to them for only a short time? Truly I was dogmatic about its reputation, teachings and beliefs. For some reason it had a strong effect on me at the time. Maybe I was vulnerable as I was looking for truth and purpose so badly.

Precious word of God was planted

By the grace and love of God my sister met a man named Peter Rahme who sold Christian literature at Rahme Relationship Resources - a

ministry of the Inner West Baptist Church. He recommended her a book titled, "30 Years A Watchtower Slave" by William J. Schnell. She gave me this book plus other related articles she printed off the internet and advised that I should do my own research. I didn't appreciate her help and was upset. I honestly believed I had the truth at the time and didn't want anything else to side track me. Again, I was dogmatic about it.

She compelled me to meet Peter just once, hear him out and then decide which way I would go. I said no, but she kept begging until I finally (and reluctantly) agreed to a meeting. I believe God had used her well despite her being a devout Catholic and unconverted. God was in control of everything. She drove me there in her car because she didn't want me to put it off if left on my own.

When we arrived at the church hall in Homebush, Peter greeted us with a big smile. He thanked us for taking the time to explore spiritual matters and the things of God. I decided to challenge him on the 144,000 going to heaven. I wanted to see how he would tackle it. When I popped the question, he gently thanked me for asking and confirmed whether I believed the bible. I told him I do and showed him my version (NIV) of the bible which I brought along. He was glad and commented that not everyone will respect its final authority and said he preferred the 1611 King James version (KJV). Fair enough, let's see what he had to say on the matter.

Then he read the whole of chapter 7 in the book of Revelation. I listened to him read the passages slowly, carefully stressing certain words along the way for emphases. He then asked me a number of leading questions regarding the 144,000 and the great multitude where no man could number. The first one was: "What nationality were the 144,000?" I replied, "They appear to be Jews according to the text." He said "Yes, that's right since they are of the children of Israel. Agree?" I paused for five seconds (I wanted to disagree based on WT's teachings) but then agreed with the clear and obvious observation. He asked, "How many from each tribe?" I said "12,000" He asked, "Are they male or female?" I said "male Jews." Now at this point I was beginning to wonder what he was trying to prove. Alright, so

the 144,000 were all male Jews, not of various nationalities as I had previously thought. However, he hasn't addressed my confident assertion - no one will be going to heaven except those 144,000 sealed by Jehovah God.

He said," In regards to the great multitude described in verse 9 - how many are there and what nationality are they? I went back to the passage to check and replied, 'Well, according to the text it says the great multitude no man could count. So I suppose (pause)... it must be an extremely large number of people from all nationalities.'" He fired another three questions, "Where are they standing? What are they wearing? What are they holding in their hands?" I said, "They are standing before the throne and before the Lamb of God in white robes holding palms in their hands". He said, "Who is the Lamb of God?" I said, "Jesus Christ". He said, "WHERE is Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God?" I said, "He is in heaven..." That was it! My spiritual blind fold came off! Immediately I was humbled by the word of God. Peter didn't stop there. He wanted me to be totally clear on the passages and expose the errors of the WT's teaching." So this great multitude where no man could number - where do you suppose they be?" I said, "They are in heaven with God." I couldn't argue otherwise. It was clear as daylight. I was silenced. I started to doubt and question the teachings coming from the WT Society. I reasoned that if I was deceived on this point perhaps I could be led astray in many others. At this point I begin to recall the warnings made in the book by William J. Schnell and other related articles.

The seed of the word of God grew

A seed of hope and gospel light was sown in my heart that day. My mind thought many things and I kept these things in my heart. I sat there and listened to Peter's testimony of how he came out of rock & roll music, sensuality and wild living. He came to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour and Lord. It was a brief testimony but one I remembered well. God helped me remember these little details so the Spirit could work in my heart later on which is why a believer should be *".. ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear"*

(Peter 3:15) What struck me was how God had transformed this rebellious and wild man into a God fearing, bible loving Christian. If God could do it to him, maybe he could transform me also. It was an intriguing observation.

My sister thanked him for his time and also bought a video titled "Witnesses of Jehovah" by Good News Defenders. She gave it to me as a present. I watched it that evening and learnt its history, manipulative schemes and scams to put people in bondage in serving this pseudo-Christian cult giving "another gospel" and preaching "another Jesus". I also read additional related articles she printed off the internet during her break time at work.

Broke free from the cult!

Finally I took the courage to ring one of the Jehovah Witnesses to cancel the bible study and separate myself totally. It was a difficult phone call. That Jehovah Witness brother was devastated hoping I had made a big mistake or something. He suggested I reconsider my abrupt decision. I told him about the WT's lies and failed predictions in the past. I explained to him my reason for leaving was not due to his character or the other Witnesses but because of the lies and deception coming out of the WT Society. He defended the organization passionately (just like I did before) and said it was the only organisation worldwide that can offer its members a real hope of living forever on paradise earth. He wished me luck in finding such a one. By faith in God's goodness I told him, "The Lord will lead me to His little flock. I know He will someday."

So I left the matter alone for another month. During that time my wife, mother-in-law and son, Justin travelled overseas leaving me alone in the house. Temptation crept up and I fell back into sensuality and pleasure seeking. At the same time I looked around for bible study classes to increase my understanding of the scriptures. So I rang Peter early March 2005 and he gave me a contact who was a good friend of his. This good friend was Michael B Cini – a fundamental, independent Baptist preacher from Grace Baptist Church (now known as Macarthur Baptist Church). I rang him the next day and his wife Rita picked up the phone. I left her a message and

Michael rang me shortly afterwards. I told him I just wanted to study the bible and was not interested in joining any church etc and he suggested I should come to church on Sunday morning and get the details. I went and sat under the preaching of the word of God. I approached Michael after the service and he gave me the address for the Wednesday bible studies and prayer meeting. I attended the meeting and he also gave me his powerful testimony of how he came out of Roman Catholicism, drunkenness and idolatry which was money and a devotional scapular which he wore with him for good luck and protection against evil spirits. He also came to the saving knowledge and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. He asked me this question - "How long do you think is eternity?" and honestly I couldn't answer it directly. I was afraid, too. He gave me a "STOP" tract to read. I read it the next two days on my way to work and couldn't get myself to sleep at night. I was convicted by my immoral living and selfishness. All the things that had happened – what I saw, heard and understood from talking to Peter and Michael came to me. God was using them to wrestle me until I get my sin problem sorted.

The spiritual struggle

The next day on Friday 11th March 2005 around one AM I heard a small voice said to my heart "Go, take the STOP tract and read it again. You must settle the question - where will you spend eternity? I am your ONLY way out from your destruction and misery." Immediately, good and evil began to fight inside my mind. My flesh pressed me to go one way but the Holy Spirit moved me to the other direction. I couldn't remember where I left that tract, but somehow I found it quickly *in the dark!* Looking back, that was quite amazing. God made little things like this easier so I could reach His life line. I read it again slowly. With all my heart I bowed my head and called upon the name of the Lord. I cried for His mercy and apologised for going my own way for so long. God heard my prayers and accepted it. He wonderfully rescued me out of my corruption, religious bondage and from this Christian cult. I felt the burden and guilt lifted. God has taken away my sins and placed them onto Jesus. For the first time, I came to the Almighty directly

through the Lord Jesus Christ. I prayed He would change me so I can serve and live for Him. He finally found me and His grace changed my eternal destiny.

Joy filled my heart. I had to tell someone about my conversion. So I rang Michael the next day. Tears of joy ran down his face as we talked and laughed together. It was the highlight of my life. I still get a little ache in my throat re-telling God's amazing grace and love extended to me.

Found peace and rest in the Saviour

Through His wisdom He ordered the events, which seemed unrelated at the time, in perfect orchestration. I am glad my lovely wife spoke out about my involvement in a cult to my mother and sister which actually advanced God's rescue mission of my soul. He has exhausted every possible avenue using the saved and unsaved to draw me to Himself. O, what profound love! Praise God for His awesome grace. He has adopted this miserable sinner through the shed blood and finished work of His Son, Jesus Christ.

These days God has strengthened me to flee from my fleshly lust and evil desires. He has chased away the enemy of my soul, the devil. He became my strong tower and sure Rock. I love His word in the bible more and more. Praise our Lord for His enduring mercies and loving kindness.

I called upon thy name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon.

Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear at my breathing, at my cry.

Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not.

O LORD, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast redeemed my life.

(Lamentations 3:55-58)

If you are a slave to sin, religion, or to a Christian cult such as the Jehovah Witnesses, may you repent of them and turn to Christ alone to be your personal Saviour and Master. Your soul is far too precious to leave to chance. Repent and believe on the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved. It's a simple step of faith rather than your merits or good works. Make it sure today! If you choose

Jesus your eternal future will be in God's hand – forever secured in heaven. Why risk being cast into the lake of fire and suffer everlasting torment where the worm die not and the fire is never put out.

*In Christ alone and for His Gospel
Hieu Ngo*