

## From Prostitute to Church Planter

Dear xxxxx,

Through our TV broadcasts, not only are people saved, but they are also equipped to be agents of transformation in their communities. You may say that total discipleship and leadership cannot happen through TV only—and I agree with you. That is why we conduct out-of-country, intensive, face-to-face discipleship and leadership training conferences regularly. We first teach and coach potential leaders in small online groups. Then we bring to face-to-face training conferences only those dedicated leaders who have proven their leadership ability by bearing much fruit.

Ziba is one of these dedicated leaders. Her story begins with lifelong physical abuse from her father. At sixteen and severely beaten, she decided to leave home:



*I walked out of the house and roamed the streets of Tehran. It was getting late when a car stopped, and the male driver offered to give me a ride. He sounded very kind, so I trusted him. When he asked me where I was going, I told him what had happened and that I did not want to go back home. He said that he lived with his mom and I could stay with them. I accepted his offer and went to his home.*

*The man raped me the first night. He started bringing other men, who paid him a fee, to rape me also. I hated myself and hated life.*

After a few months, Ziba decided the streets offered a better choice than certain rape.

*I ran back to the streets. Eventually, another male driver offered help. I said “No!” fearing the abuse would repeat, but he continued to pursue me kindly, insisting that he wanted to help. Something in his voice calmed me. I felt he was sincere. I said I had no place to go and had been forced into prostitution months before. He offered to take me to his family.*

*This time it was different. This young man and his family accepted me as one of their own. I found out that they all had become Christians through your TV programs, so I started watching with them. Soon after, I believed in Jesus and saw my life change dramatically. I was not bitter anymore. Ali (the driver) stayed kind, and he never touched me. After a few weeks, he said that he loved me and wanted to marry me. I felt so worthless that I rejected his offer. But he insisted and said that after we married, we could move to an apartment on the other side of town. I could not believe that there was a man who loved me for me and who did not want to take advantage of me. After a while I agreed to marry him. He was true to his word. We married and moved across Tehran to where nobody knew us.*

(over, please)

Healed and changed, Ziba's transformation began spreading outward because of the equipping she was still receiving from our TV programs.

*I started loving the neighbors in our apartment complex. I watched your programs and told others about what I had learned from you without telling them where I had learned it. (Sorry, but I pretended that your teachings were my own.) Gradually, I gained a reputation in my neighborhood as a pure, loving, and wise woman who could help others and give life-changing counsel. Every night, when I came home from work, I had knocks on my door from neighbors who needed a friend and counsel about issues in their lives. Many evenings, as I entered our apartment complex after a day of work, I could sense our neighbors looking through the peepholes on their front doors to see if I had arrived so that they could rush to visit with me.*

*I started telling those who had trusted me about Jesus, telling them to watch your programs. As a result, some of them came to Christ.*

I met Ziba personally at our training conference in India, where we taught her how to plant and lead underground churches. After going back to Iran, she gathered her neighbors and formed several house churches. She reported later that she has an underground house church for every floor of her apartment complex, each meeting on a different night of the week.

### **Let's Plant Underground Churches Together**

We encounter people like Ziba continuously. I want to assure you that your support not only helps us bring people to Christ so that they experience life transformation, but it also allows us to train them to be house church planters—just like Ziba. Thousands like her contact us for training. But with our limited resources, we can only respond to a few. It saddens my heart that every month we have to say NO to young people who want us to train them to serve Jesus effectively. Would you help us train more underground house church planters? **This month, generous donors will match your gifts up to \$60K. Every dollar you give before June 30 will double to train twice as many people to plant churches!**

Iran as a nation is ready for true transformation. The fire of revival has already started— dedicated young leaders are ready to live and die for Him. Would you add fuel to that fire? Would you help us turn what God has started in Iran into a major revival that will impact not just Iran but all the countries in the Middle East?



Partnering with you to equip believers in Iran,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hormoz Shariat".

Hormoz Shariat, Ph.D.  
President & Founder, Iran Alive

 **Donate NOW!**

**P.S. Don't forget that because of a \$60K matching campaign, what you give this month will have a double impact on the underground church in Iran.**