

ON THE COVER SHOUKAT SIDDIQUE

3-in-1 The Voice

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Meet Pastor Shoukat Siddique

Pastor-in-Charge Living Branch Church, Islamabad

${f I}$ ntroduction

Born in Islamabad, Pakistan in 1974, Shoukat Siddique. A graduate from university, Shoukat's desire and dream in life was to become a billionaire overnight and live like a king!

Shoukat's personal testimony is powerful and for the first time, in his own words, he shares his testimony with 3-in-1 The Voice readership, in this our very special EASTER SPECIAL EDITION.

As Pastor-in-Charge of the one of the fastest growing churches in Islamabad, and 3-in-1 GPN Co-Ordinator for Pakistan. With a local church just a couple of hours away having been attacked by terrorists in the last year, Shoukat not only network and train with other local pastors regularly but in a crisis they can reach out to others in need.

Undeterred by threats, this community of believers continues to reach the lost in Jesus' name and just recently had a miraculous healing at the church which Pastor Siddique also shares here in this issue. Alongside his beautiful wife Angelina, who also is pioneering a local women's ministry, this dynamic couple share just a little of what God is doing in their lives... Happy Resurrection Day!

Karin McBride-Chenoweth



Pictured above: Shoukat Siddique

Pastor-in-Charge Living Branch Church, Islamabad, Pakistan



Testimony of Shoukat Siddique In his own words

INTRODUCTION Shoukat Siddique was born on 18th November 1974 in Islamabad, Pakistan. He completed his primary and higher education from the Government School in Islamabad. After college I graduated with a degree in Hardware Engineering. I had a very good job opportunity soon after he graduated, working as a professional in the computer market. Sure I made a lot of money quickly and became quite a rich young man! However, I became a victim to the sinful life, steeped in selfish desires.

I would seldom go to church, why should I? Hand in hand with the devil I deliberately forsook the ways of God. I neither believed in Jesus Christ nor realized that through Christ Jesus I could find or seek redemption. I always ignored the word of God; today I realize that my life has a big part in God's plan. Although the devil had completely ensnared me, God had already paid the price of my sin.

Look at it this way, we never want to part with something that we paid a high price for, in the same sense when the Lord our God already paid the price of our transgressions, why should He leave us in the hands of the devil?

THE MAKING OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN

As I said before, my greatest desires were to have wealth, become a billionaire overnight, and live forever like a king. What I needed to learn was that they were only desires. The Word says **Psalm 126:5** "those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy" he was not acquainted with godly life, so how could he see his desires come true. For it is mentioned in **James 5:16** ".....the prayer of a Righteous Man is powerful and effective. The Scripture also testifies in **Psalm 128:1-2** "Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in His ways. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours" the fear of Lord makes us blessed and prosperous. I could therefore neither become blessed nor prosperous because I never feared God!

The Lord then also gave him up to the foolish desires of his hearts. The Word testifies of his situation in **Romans 1:24** "therefore God gave them over in sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another". Israel suffered in the same way when they were wandering in desert. They hearkened to the voice of their hearts instead of following God's way. Thus the journey of four days extended into forty years.



Just as the ground holds the tree with its grip on the roots, in the same way the devil had fully gripped my life. I was totally stuck in the hands of Satan. Roots always remain in the ground to feed on minerals and other sources for the growth of the tree. In the same way Satan was feeding me and I was growing with the food that was being supplied from Satan. Satan had completely captured my life. He offered him the food after his heart that was the flesh of women and the vine. This is a very effective tool of Satan for any young man or woman to lure him/her.

As the Lord had plan in his life, so this evil-play did not continue for long. I met a woman called Angelina and as with the others, harboring the same evil desire in my heart, I moved forward with the same ambition. But this was not the same case; as she was born-again Christian. She was not in agreement with him, since the Holy Spirit was with her. She was very much aware of filthy design of Satan against mankind and quite aware of the fact that Satan has been against mankind since beginning. She stood I believe in the authority that has given by the Lord Jesus to His people **Luke 10:19** "I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you" as Lord himself has crushed his head on cross 2000 years back. Unaware of my spiritual condition, she came to know through his changing behavior and attitude towards her that the Lord wanted to save him through her. She then, following the will of the Lord, entrusted this matter to the Lord. She would pray that the Lord bestow eternal life on him; 'Set him free Lord, and give him the salvation through the power of the precious blood of Lord Jesus Christ.'

Who could even think that this man would change his life? But the Word testifies that those who

sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. She kept on praying for him with groans. After some time her prayers were answered and there came a little change in his life. Whenever they talked on phone, Jesus was the only thing to talk about. A battle of wills ensured and I tried my best to persuade her but here the situation was totally different. She was not like the girls he used to see – she did not submit to his will but to the Lord's. Whilst this woman continued to minister to me another woman came along and I submitted to the temptation. I was even prepared to convert to her religion. I turned up to convert and get married to her however the Holy Spirit moved powerfully and in such a way that the religious-leader who was to perform the conversion said "you don't love our religion and you are quitting your own religion just because of a girl, you would never be faithful to God in any religion, anywhere. These were not the words I wanted to hear but they were the words I needed to hear! Defeated, I didn't want to talk to anyone. The power of the Holy Spirit started working inside me, making me strong. I thought of the Christian girl who was praying for me day and night to fulfill the plan of the Lord in his life. One day I called and told her



Pastor Shoukat & Angelina Siddique

that I wanted to marry her. She was shocked! She had fallen in love with me, but she didn't tell me until she heard my words. She sought the will of her parents for this decision. Her parents agreed and they were married on 25th April 2003.

Though we were now married our lifestyles were totally different. How a righteous, faithful and a pious girl could live with a man like me who did not even believe in the Lord Jesus and seldom went to church is beyond me. But as she was in the covenantal marriage, the responsibility of

prayer was more important than ever. She had obeyed God to not only pray for me personally but to marry me in faith that some day I would turn to Him. Although there were tense times, she never ceased to pray and continued in her walk of obedience and truth.

During this time, Angelina conceived and the time arrived when I took his her to the hospital for delivery. While I was standing outside the operation theater I saw a nurse calling out who was her husband, I moved forward with a hope that the Lord had blessed us with a child, but it was totally the opposite. The nurse said that the delivery would be complicated and that I may have to sign a paper that one of them, or both, could die – a disclaimer. I was devastated but there was no time to think over it, it really quenched my heart. It was the very first time when I seriously thought about God and for the first time I prayed to a God I didn't believe in, "Lord please help me, save my child and my wife I beg you". I signed the papers reluctantly with this prayer. The nurse departed with the paper and I started thinking I had signed the death certificate of my precious wife and child but at that very moment I felt a power of the Holy Spirit massage my heart. Somehow I knew that everything would alright. The nurse came out again after sometime, I was standing beside my mother, facing the Operating Theater. For a brief moment I have to admit I was scared, I wanted to move my body but there was no strength in me. Just then the words that came out of the mouth of the nurse,

'You have a beautiful son', I was so happy that I lost self-control and shed tears of joy. I couldn't stop shedding more tears whenever I held my son in my arms for the first time and Angelina was also fine. Immersed in God's love we brought our son home to start our new life together with the Lord at the head of our home.

THE CALL

Sometime later I attended a seminar in which Pastor Rick Zachary from America spoke. At the end of the seminar the pastor came to me and prophesied "Shoukat! You may not need me but I need you, you will teach those who preach in churches and in big multitudes" the touch of the Holy Spirit was so powerful; that I couldn't help myself but bow-down before Lord and shed tears. It was entirely a new experience for me, because I had never wept before the Lord before except whenever Angelina was in hospital. Following this one night I was sleeping and felt someone shake me and I woke up! However, there was no-one around. He was sitting at the edge of the bed wondering what had happened and suddenly heard a voice, "Get up and evangelize" but I had doubts, is it the voice of the God? In a while I heard the same words again. Then I said 'Lord if it is you, please prove yourself.' I heard the same voice again,

'Open the Bible and read Proverbs 8:1.'

I rushed to get the Bible and reached the reference,

"does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice"

The moment I read that, I understood that this is the Lord God Himself speaking to me. He was present in the room, I started crying before the Lord again being washed and cleansed. This crying persisted and I don't know for how many hours I cried for my repentance and forgiveness to God. But it was all part of the sanctification process and He was also cleansing my like soap spiritually, with the precious blood of Lord Jesus Christ. I knew after this that I had never truly repented before.

When I got up in the morning I shared all that with my wife, Angelina. She was eagerly waiting for Lord to reveal His plans to me. She was so happy to see that the prayers she had offered up

were being answered. I can testify that "those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy" I then called my Pastor straightaway and told him the whole story. The Pastor agreed and declared:

Brother your Lord is calling you for the ministry'.

That was the turning point, it was at this moment that I totally gave my life to the Lord and turned from sinful ways never to revisit them again. On 19th May 2005 I repented was baptized with water and entrusted myself to the one true God through His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ. That's the power of the Word of God and the prayers (hallelujah!). You know this all took place in my life because of continuous prayers, tears, wailings and groanings of the spirit which cannot be uttered, before the Lord. If you have anything that you think is impossible, please start praying for that, no matter how difficult that task is, it can be solved by His grace. Things will be changed, and life will not remain as it was. The promises of Lord our God will overcome every situation and you will see the victory in the midst of the storms...

IN SUMMATION

Now the truth is reflecting from every act of my life. For I have found favor with God. My chief end is to worship Lord Jesus and serve him. I had quit my job in Dec 2007, became a disciple in a Church and my pastor became my mentor. The Lord has helped me to be an obedient and faithful disciple. In a very short time I was in father/son relationship with my Pastor. After serving my pastor seven years, he sent me to plant a new Church in another area, in Jan 2013. The Lord has blessed Angelina and I with another son and a daughter. I started a new Church in Islamabad city with 22 families, and thank God we have more than 70 families now in just 28 months. A great revival has touched the land through the Church. My spiritual father has laid one more responsibility to teach in Living Branch Bible College as professor, so I'm also serving as a teacher in the Bible College. Let us give all the glory to the one who has good plans for each one of us. Amen!



Praise Report

An old widow joined the Church about 10 months ago, she was very afflicted and living a miserable life, because her son would not respect her and give her space in his house, she had to shift to her daughter's house to live. The daughter was also separated from her husband with two young girls. The old widow one day brought her daughter in the church, she wanted me to pray for her, when I asked the purpose of prayer, she said that her husband had left her, and took one of the daughters with him. Moreover the sister (Mrs. Mehnaz Naveed) was not ready to accept him back because he was drug addict.

The Lord burdened me with great compassion to pray for the restoration of the marriage, so I prayed and they left. The sister also started coming in the Church from that day on, she was not regular, but every time she would come I would ask her, if she had heard from her husband, and her answer would be the same, Pastor! "He cannot change; I hate him because he has snatched one of my daughters from me". But I would always reply totally different, she was speaking the language of circumstances but I was replying with the language of faith. Two weeks back I visited them with their home-cell leader. I asked the sister the same question, and she replied the same hopeless answer.

I interceded for their marriage with tears, while I was praying the Lord gave me the prophetic word for that brother, (Mr. Naveed) that "he will surely come back, he will repent, and he will serve the Lord Almighty". The sister this time was little curious to know if this will really happen? I had not seen Naveed before, but I felt love for him in my heart, two days before the brother returned home, he said that he was missing his wife and two daughters, he also said he was worried about them, because the wife and the daughters needed me, so I'm back now, to provide my wife protection and daughters their father.

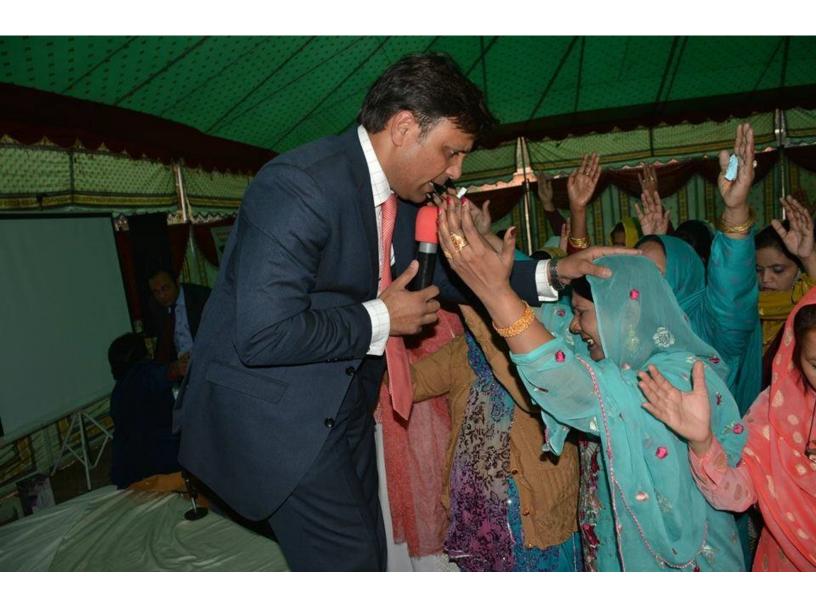
Moreover the sister also welcomed him in her house. When I heard that Naveed has come back, I immediately visited them with their home-cell leader because I wanted to pray for both of them. When we reached their home, the brother testified that, for last two weeks there was something that was making me think about my wife and daughters. I've no idea who brought me here and how did I come in my wife's house, but now I say that I'm on my best and also trying hard to quit addiction and live a faithful life with my wife and three daughters. He assured that he would support them, and love them with all his heart. Karin I could not help myself to stop my tears, then I told brother Naveed that this is the power of the Holy Spirit that was dealing with you, and he said a **BIG YES**.

We prayed for them but now it was not only the hopeless wife with two daughters, but it was a *Complete Family* that we were praying for. I thought I must share this life changing testimony with you. Please pray for this man's job, he is a very experienced

driver. Also pray for the strength from the Lord that he may give-up addiction completely. I'm so glad and rejoicing in the Lord for a marriage is restored, the wife got her husband, the husband his wife, the daughters their father, a daughter her mother and sisters and the father his daughters. The old widow was not at home when we visited the family tonight; but I believe that she would also be happy to see her daughter's marriage restored.

Thank you Lord Jesus we praise you and exalt you for your amazing works. Amen!

'Reaching the Lost'





Dear reader you are always welcome to contact us (I & my wife) for any comments, or to send your prayer requests at the email given below. We would love to join hands for your deliverance and strength in the Lord.

A Couple in Christ.

Pastor Shoukat Siddique & Angelina Siddique

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