

Dale Stagg Chief Executive Officer December 2024

"Why are you rejecting me?" Dear Friend,

I have always been drawn to roles where I can make a difference in people's lives—helping to change their circumstances for the better. It's something I can't seem to resist! My journey began in law enforcement, a career that was both challenging and deeply fulfilling. Over the years, I've worked in drug and alcohol rehabilitation, crisis housing and family counselling. Each role has been deeply satisfying, exhausting, and profoundly demanding.

In the midst of all that, Jesus grabbed me by the scruff of the neck and turned my life in a new direction. That journey eventually brought me to Reach Beyond, where I've encountered incredible stories of change and transformation—stories like the one below.

'Dear Sir, I don't know what to say, but let me tell you one thing – your God is true. I come from a Hindu family that worships idols. I was faithful to the traditions my family taught me. I have pictures of other gods in my house, which we decorate with flowers and worship it.

This fine day, my friend unintentionally forwarded a message to me. She usually forwards many WhatsApp messages, but this was different—it was not meant for me, and I didn't know it would talk about Jesus. As usual, I read it, just as I would read any other message.

"Why are you rejecting me?" Those were the words I heard. I kept going back and forth, wondering who had I rejected? The only person I could think of was a man who had recently proposed to me. I re-read the message before heading off to work. Later, while travelling home on the bus after work, I heard the same voice again, "Why are you rejecting me?" I ignored it and continued browsing on my mobile.

I went home, had dinner, received a call from a friend, and then went to bed. Again, I heard this voice, "Why are you rejecting me?"











This time, it connected to the words I had read earlier in the morning. I tried to sleep again, but my brother was watching a TV program in the next room, and the volume was quite loud. In the program, a man speaking to a woman, stated, "Why are you rejecting me?" This message was hitting me hard. Reluctantly, I went back to the message I had read that morning—and that's when I found the answer.

Believe me, I was crying, and something filled my heart. I was so deeply touched. I heard these words, "I am the Lord your God. I died for you and rose again – I will come back." I felt something new in my life, before eventually falling asleep.

The next day, I shared this experience with my friend who sent me the original message. She told me that it is God who is speaking to me, and she prayed with me. I am now a true believer of Jesus Christ.

*I now follow this everyday devotional, and it is very helpful in my life. Thank you.*' (Secret believer of a Big God – as told by her)

Stories like the one above are only possible because God sent his Son. As John 17:3 reminds us, 'This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ who you have sent.' Jesus, the sent Son, the saving Son, the sufficient Son—is at the heart of every life transformed by His love and grace.

To everyone across this wide brown land and beyond, thank you. Your encouragement, prayers, and generosity have been a tremendous blessing and a vital part of this work.

As we approach the end of another year, may I humbly ask for your continued prayers for Reach Beyond? We have encountered some unexpected financial challenges recently. If you feel you are able to support this ministry with an end-of-year contribution, we would be deeply grateful. You can reach us on 1300 653 853 or <u>click here</u> to donate.

Together, let's continue to bring hope and share the Good News with those who need it most.

Kind regards

Dale Stagg, CEO

P.S. May the joy, peace, and hope of Christ fill your heart and home this Christmas and always.