

REMINDER

"And He found you lost
and guided you."
- Qur'an 93:7

Thank you for not giving up

on me, ya Allah!

BISMILLAH!



**MUSLIM CONVERTS'
ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE**

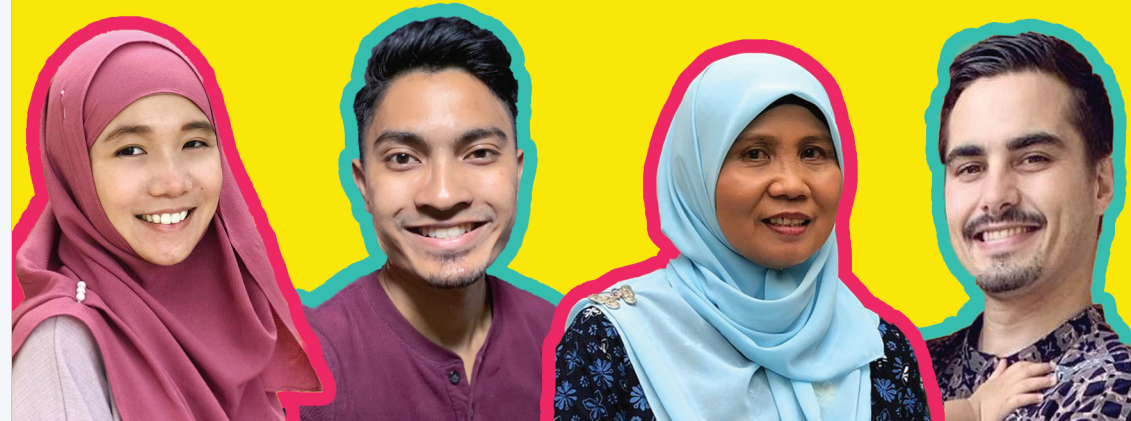
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EMBRACING ISLAM

WHAT'S NEXT?

*From the Lenses
of Converts!*





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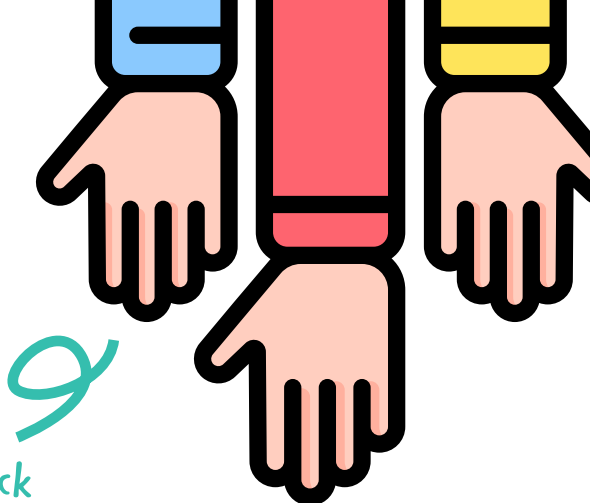
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Quick
Question!

How will this booklet help me?

While you, like many of the converts in these pages were once before, may be ready to embrace Islam, we at the Muslim Converts' Association of Singapore (MCAS) know very well that it is not that easy.

A special programme titled: **Converts' Arena** enabled us to bring together Muslim Converts to discuss relevant issues of New Muslims to compile this booklet. These are the voices of Muslim Converts who have thread the path before you.

In here you will find both comfort as well as practical advise on the next step to take in your conversion journey. May you find in it assistance to answer your question: "**What's next?**"

- 1) Ramesh Kannan @ Muhammad Shakir
(Embraced Islam in 2011)
- 2) Vikkash Suruchand @ Dawud Bilal
(Embraced Islam in 2015)
- 3) Chung Yow Min @ Danial Chung
(Embraced Islam in 1995)



#1



#2



#3

”

How did you
know you were
READY
to embrace
Islam?

#4



#6

#5



”

- 4) Nur Jihan Li
(Embraced Islam in 2015)
- 5) Eva Marie Nadado @ Noreen Hawwa Nadado
(Embraced Islam in 2013)
- 6) Jovelyn Palupe Dizon @ Izma Junainahh Palupe
(Embraced Islam in 2014)

*When I felt down
and realized that
I wanted to seek
solace in Allah.*

- Farida Wanchik,
A Conscious Muslim

When I noticed a
positive change
in myself and my
character.

- Andrew Luo
Jiann Ming,
Embraced Islam
in 2020

WHEN I'VE
STUDIED OTHER
RELIGIONS
AND STILL
CANNOT TURN
AWAY FROM
ISLAM.

- J, Embraced Islam
in 2018

WHEN I REALISED THE
TRUE PURPOSE OF
LIFE'S EXISTENCE.

- Dawud Bilal, Embraced
Islam in 2015

When Islam
just made sense.

- Adam Faulkner,
Embraced Islam in 2020

When Islam
provided me with
the answers and
guidance I was
longing for.

- Andre Kwek
Exploring Islam

How much KNOWLEDGE is necessary to be ready to embrace Islam?

The seeking of God and the Truth comes hand in hand with the seeking of knowledge.

But just how much knowledge do we need to equip ourselves with? Do we need to know *everything* about Islam before we can convert?

Need to know everything (0%)

Don't need to know everything (100%)

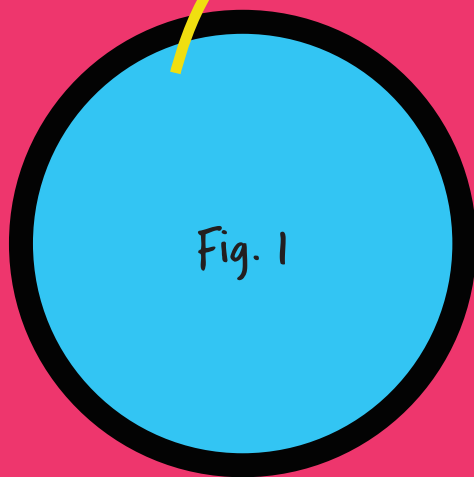
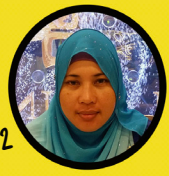


Fig 1. Answers by Converts from *Converts Arena*

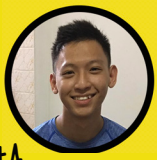


Here are some actual responses

You can't know everything before converting to Islam.*

We are mere humans, and there is something to learn everyday about the religion. What's most important is knowing our end goal, our purpose and meaning in life, and having a belief that there is one True God. THE FUNDAMENTALS OF WHAT WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND ARE, I BELIEVE, THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM AND THE SIX ARTICLES OF FAITH. What's essential are also the answers to our personal doubts and questions. *Then, as days go by, we will learn more; the rest will fall into place eventually. I REALISED THAT HAVING FAITH IN GOD IS MORE IMPORTANT, BECAUSE IT IS HE WHO WILL GUIDE US [IN THE END].*

* by Elvira Tingson Delfin @ Huma Zaafira Delfin, Embraced Islam in 2011



1) Kuek Puey Kia @ Jamilah Josephine Kuek (Embraced Islam in 2019); 2) Elvira Tingson Delfin @ Huma Zaafira Delfin (Embraced Islam in 2011); 3) Nora Hostallero Quisando @ Mariam G Hostallero (Embraced Islam in 2015); 4) Kaven Sidiqqe Lim (Embraced Islam in 2018); 5) Hamesh Kumar @ Muhammad Mukhlis (Embraced Islam in 2009); 6) Muhammad Umar Raju Abdullah (Embraced Islam in 2011).

Any tips for new students of Islam?

*Carmel Joan Philips,
Embraced Islam in 2019*

Have faith in Allah's Plans:
remember that it was Him
who guided you.

Be curious and be open.

Don't let misunderstandings
and prejudices cloud your
understanding of Islam.

*Sarah,
A Conscious Muslim*

*Shameem Abdul Talib,
A Conscious Muslim*

Do not learn from Google!

Also, seek advice from the
right parties and not just
any random person.

*Kaven Sidiqqe Lim,
Embraced Islam in 2018*

Take as much time to learn
and explore. Be patient with
yourself and never give up.

*Emily Tan,
other faith*

Listen to your heart. talk to
Allah a lot no matter what
happens, good or bad.

Remember,

ALLAH'S

PLANS

are better than

YOUR

DREAMS

Carmel Joan Philips



Embraced Islam in 2019

OPEN YOUR HEART
OPEN YOUR MIND



ALWAYS BE KIND TO YOURSELF

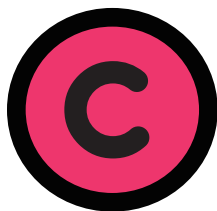
Andrew Luo Jiann Ming

Embraced Islam in 2020

How should I BREAK THE NEWS to family, friends & colleagues?

One of the hardest things most Converts go through is breaking the news of their conversion to their loved ones.

While each convert's situation is unique, these are some suggestions from experienced Converts:



Change

Change for the better and display good character. Be better than who you were before. Your actions speak more volumes than the words you say.



Understand

Know that they come only from a place of love and concern, and that they too might have misconceptions. Understanding this shapes your reaction in turn.



Share

Share, not preach, what had led you to Islam. Do this gradually and sincerely. Plan your approach wisely, and address any concerns they might have.

How were their REACTIONS?



ACCEPTANCE

“I was expecting it to be negative. [Instead], they asked if this choice would make me a happier person, and if it does, then that is ok [with them].”



Guillaume Jeanpierre @ Bilal Jeanpierre
(Embraced Islam in 2015)

shock

anger +
resistance

sadness +
concern

disappointment
+ confusion

While it is wishful thinking to expect everyone to react positively, Converts experienced different reactions when breaking the news to their loved ones.

What we know for sure is that, prayer, patience and knowledge, topped with excellent character, are the winning combination to overcome criticism.

neutral
+ openness

content
+ curious
+ respect

PRAYER, PATIENCE,
EDUCATION & EXCELLENCE
IN YOUR CHARACTER

“My father allowed me to embrace Islam but not practice it as he deemed Islam to be only for a certain ethnicity. It was only after I studied more and shared with him what I learnt, that we managed to debunk the misconceptions we both harboured about Islam.”

Foo Eng Yoong @ Adam Foo
(Embraced Islam in 2012)



Would it be **NECESSARY** to tell them immediately?

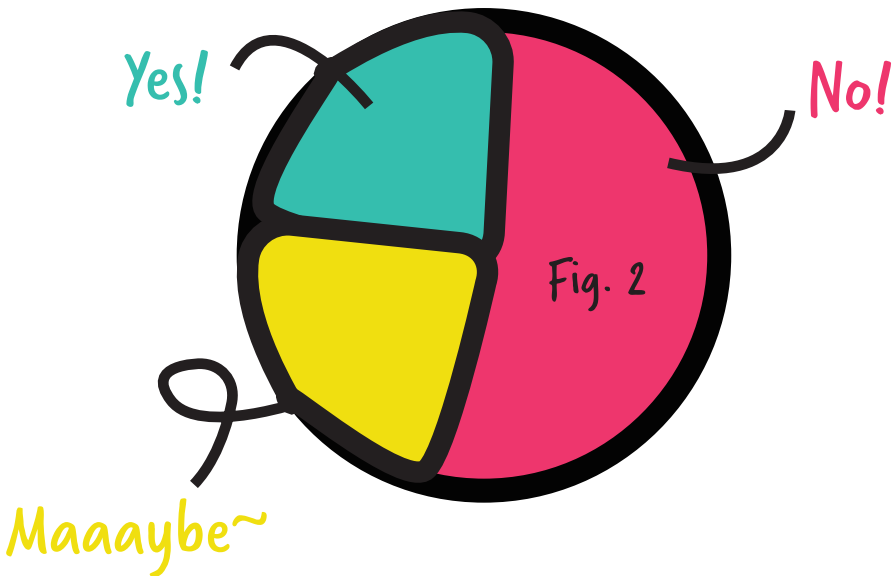


Fig 2. Answers by Converts

Finally finding Home make you excited and tempted to shout from the rooftops to share the good news. However, most of the Converts advised that the best way forward is to take your time if you

need it and to get a good judgement of your loved one's foreseeable response. **Don't ever feel pressured to tell anyone;** share only when you are comfortable to do so.

Tips for Success:

BE PATIENT

SURRENDER TO GOD

TRUST HIM

Rosalyn @ Nurhanna Sayson



Embraced Islam in 2014



Filipino Converts



Breaking Fast in Ramadhan



European Converts



- 1) Saleh o'Dempsey
(Embraced Islam in 1999)
- 2) Ang Shu Min @ Nur Ashalina Abdullah Ang
(Embraced Islam in 2010)
- 3) Nur Farhana Bte Abdul Kader
(A Conscious Muslim since 2017)

PERHAPS I WOULD
HAVE LEARNT TO
ARTICULATE ISLAM
BETTER FIRST...

- Guillaume Jeanpierre @ Bilal
Jeanpierre (Embraced Islam in 2015)

I would have
told someone
closest to
me first, then
have them
with me when
I break the
news.

- Anonymous

I would have
told them
sooner as
they were
hurt by my
secret. They
felt they were
losing me.

- Anonymous

Time will tell, but I
feel that I have done
the best I could.

- Foo Eng Yoong @ Adam Foo
(Embraced Islam in 2012)

How Would You Have Done It

BETTER?



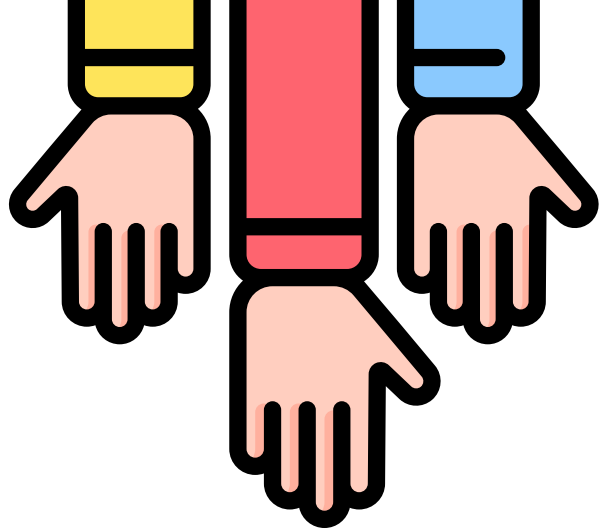
Conclusion

Know that you are not alone in this journey. There have been countless of seekers who have went through what you are experiencing now. They faced similar challenges but overcome it with patience, knowledge, and faith.

Every journey to Islam is unique and special and there is no one fixed way in experiencing the beauty and challenges that comes along with this pursuit. May this booklet be of assistance for everyone who are finding answers.

May your pursuits be blessed by the Almighty and we at MCAS are committed to facilitating your journey to Islam.

May you be under His Guidance and Protection always. ❤️



Kyle Barreda

KEEP EXPLORING &
NEVER STOP LEARNING

Exploring Islam

