



**Brad Staman**  
**How I Meet Jesus**

Growing up in a mainline church the way to heaven was being a good person. Though I was far from “good” I was better than most so I was a Christian – or so I thought.

As a “good” person I drank, did drugs, and a number of other things that took me down a path toward destruction. Throughout college I attended church regularly, three times a year – Christmas, Easter, and the week before finals, but it was nothing but religious rituals.

After college I headed out to make my dreams come true. My first stop was Los Angeles to become a world famous photographer. When that fell through I moved to Denver to regroup and try chasing my dreams from a different angle. That also failed and I found myself back home on the farm working for the neighbor as a hired-hand.

Every morning I would drag myself out of bed before the sun came up to help set water. Every morning the radio in the farmer’s truck would be on a local Christian radio station. At the time the farm family was attending evangelistic meetings at a local church every night and every day they would invite me to join them. Every day I would have, find, or make-up an excuse for not being able to attend. Day after day we would work extra hard to get all the chores done in time so the family could head to the church and every night before they headed to town they would extend another welcome, but I succeeded in avoiding the meetings.

On the last day of the meetings the family’s six-year-old son asked me to come with them to the meetings. I could lie to his mom and dad, but I couldn’t lie to him. So after we finished chores and went home we got ready to go. Climbing into the vehicle, I had no idea what to expect.

While growing up church was boring. The songs were slow and old and everything was about ritual. I figured I could stomach an hour of church to put a smile a six-year-old boy’s face.

Man was I surprised at what I found.

First of all the songs weren’t slow, nor were they old. There was a drum, an electric guitar, and they sang upbeat songs. The people all seemed friendly and really wanted to be in church. There was something different about these people; it wasn’t like any church I’d been in before.

Instead of rituals and religion they talked about having a relationship with God, not just any kind of relationship but an intimate and personal relationship with the Creator of the Universe. The evangelist opened the Word of God and preached about Living Water from John 7:37-39 and when he gave the alter call and I went forward and took a big healthy drink of the Living Water of Jesus Christ.

Going home that night the family that took me kept saying, "You've changed," but I didn't feel any different. It was not until down the road that I began to actually see a difference. Things that I was didn't have any problem doing, now felt strange when I did them, it was a feeling that said, "You shouldn't be doing this."

I also didn't object any more to hearing that local Christian radio station, in fact I began enjoying listening to the teachers and the modern Christian music. Even when I wasn't in the farmer's truck I found myself listening to Christian radio.

As I grew in my walk with God I began to understand more and more about the relationship with Jesus that the church members had talked about. This Jesus, who died on a cross for me, began to become a closer and closer friend the more time I spent reading, studying the bible, and talking to God through prayer.

Being a Christian hasn't always been easy, but it has been rewarding. When times are rough I have a friend in Jesus who I can talk with, lean on, and through the Bible He talks to me.

My relationship with Jesus is similar to my relationship with my wife or a close friend. It impacts every part of my life 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Just like spending more time with my wife or a friend strengthens our relationship because of the time we spend together, so does spending time with God. Today, I am not always perfect, but I have a relationship with Jesus that helps me better face my failures and successes, my good times and my bad, along with all the relationships that I have in my everyday life.

Taking a drink of that Living Water that has satisfied my thirst and instead of religion I know I have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

This is a relationship that you also can have. Religion is dead and lifeless, but a relationship with Jesus is alive and continues to grow as you get to know Him more and more. The things in the Bible are real and we can be just like the great men and women of God who are spoken of in the Bible. It all begins with the relationship. For more on starting this relationship [click here](#).