Mr. Saiful Islam Mahmood, formerly Gunner H. Eriksson, who hails from Stockholm, Sweden, describes the events which led him to the fold of Islam. Although, as he says, he never subscribed to the teachings of the Church, yet he was, like other Swedes a formal member of the Swedish (Protestant) State Church.

The headline: "From Church to Mosque," is in my case not quite appropriate, as I myself have never subscribed to the teachings of the Church but only have been—as all other Swedish children, born by Christian parents—a formal member of the Swedish (Protestant) State Church.



Born in 1938 (9/11/1938 to be exact) I grew up as most other children without much thought about religion, but in 1950 a friend of mine happened to come across a Swedish translation of the Holy Quran, which I borrowed and studied. It must have fascinated me greatly, for the same year (on 9/11/1950—note the similarity of the dates) I decided to become a Muslim.

During a visit to Holland, in 1954, I happened to stay at a boarding house in The Hague, where the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission to Holland had stayed until just before my arrival. I came in contact with the Ahmadiyya Missionary, who explained Ahmadiyyat or the True Islam to me. Further explanation was given to me in 1955 by the Ahmadiyya Missionary in London and also by Hazrat Khalifa-tul-Massih II, whom I had the honour to meet during his tour of Europe. In 1956, when the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission to Scandinavia was started, I joined Islam and since then I have been trying to lead a life in submission to the Will of God. May He accep tmy effort and strengthen me, Ameen !"