

## This is the story how Christian Religion was established in Georgia

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In the middle of 3<sup>rd</sup> AD, virgin Nino was born in a famous family, her father was a Roman army by the name of Zabulan, and her mother Susana, was the sister of Patriarch Juvena of Jerusalem. When Nino reached the age of 12, her parents moved to Jerusalem and Nino became Christian.

Nino Traveled to Georgia at her youth, because she heard in her dreams that someone tell her "Go to Georgia and establish Christian religion there". She wondered how to do this. This was a great responsibility. She went to Georgia and found herself in front of royal castle in Mtshketa, The capital of Georgia on that era. She stood there and prayed to God "Bless Me".

At that time king Miran was the ruler of Georgia. His wife was Nana, a beautiful charming woman. When Nino reached the castle, the queen was seriously sick and near to death. Saint Nino Prayed for her and cured her.

Saint Nino told to king if you faced any problem Just say "In the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit". But king Mirian who was a selfish arrogant person and was against Christians, got angry and arrested Nino and sent her to jail.

One day king Mirian went to jungle for hunting. He suddenly felt sleepy and took a nap. After he woke up he found out he couldn't see anything and darkness dominated the whole world. He mentioned every religious phrases but nothing happened. Finally he said "In the Name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit". Suddenly sun rose again and everywhere got bright and shiny.

And then after, King released Saint Nino and permitted her to propagate the Christian religion. She went to the top of mountains of Qafqaz and tied two short wooden stick by her hair and made a cross and established Christian religion in Georgia.

Today Georgia is very religious country and mentioned cross is national symbol which is appear in their national flag. The biggest Orthodox Church is located at the top mountain of Tbilisi, Capital of today's Georgia. This Church consist of several smaller churches and is the place which greatest Christian Ceremonies are being hold.

Saint Nino is buried in Signagi. Today, Signagi is a touristy city and a house of nuns is located there and nuns live without disturbance of tourists. It is a beautiful city located at the top mountain in front of Qafqaz Chain Mountains. They live in peace out of reach of ordinary people and the produce every vital materials for their living on their own.



Signagi, a peaceful place which is located in front of Qafqaz Chain Mountains



Signagi, A church is now under construction with a beautiful view





Signagi, Nuns' kitchen



Signagi, Saint nino's cross is made up of two short stick tied with hairs





Around Signagi, there is a great wall with district towers which were built in past time in order to prevent penetration of enemies.





Nuns produce food in their local farms, nothing is imported from outside



Same-ba church, the biggest Orthodox Church in the works