

International FOCUS Ministries

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Taking a Truthful LOOK at Islam

During our recent M.O.S.T. (Missions Overseas Short Term) Training sessions, conducted annually at Beulah Heights Bible College in Atlanta, Georgia, I made two presentations. I would like to share some thoughts with you from one of those lessons: "WORKING IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES"

It is my prayer that you will give thoughtful and prayerful attention to the challenge and opportunity we have in reaching Muslims with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, in John 4:35, "Behold I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" One fifth of those fields of needy souls are Muslims!

A VAST FIELD

There are over one billion Muslims throughout the world across Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. Think of it! Over one billion souls for whom Christ died! These many people face each day without Christ, without the Scriptures, and without assurance of eternal life.

According to Evangelical Missions Quarterly, "more than forty nations have a majority population of Muslims and Muslim leaders have spoken of their goal to spread Islam in the West until Islam becomes a dominant, global power"¹

There are more Muslims in North America than live in the combined Arab countries. Canada, with over 500,000 Muslims, has recently recognized Islamic law to arbitrate legal disputes between Muslims. I am told, conservatively speaking, there are five to seven million Muslims living in America. A large percentage of these are living in our neighboring state of Michigan. "England's capital city has become Europe's capital of

Islam. Along with 700 mosques and 1,200 Quranic schools, nearly every university and polytechnic in London boasts an Islamic society, openly propagating Islam."²

There are now more Muslims living in London, England than there are Methodists. London was the birthplace of Methodism under the mighty leadership and ministry of John Wesley. Methodism in England, once a mighty MISSION FORCE has now become a MISSION FIELD, and Muslims are capitalizing on it! To those of us who hold dear our Wesleyan heritage it is unthinkable that this could ever happen!

A DIVERSE FIELD

Although Islam is their religion and common bond, this vast field of Muslims is a mix of diverse cultures, languages, customs and traditions. All of this must be clearly understood and taken into account when seeking to evangelize them with the Gospel of Christ.

A COMPLEX FIELD

Our ability to witness and win Muslim's to Christ will be greatly handicapped if we think all Muslims are the same. We can no more stereotype or make all Muslims fit into one conventional mold or pattern anymore than we can categorically say all Christians are the same.

Missionary Jay Smith who goes 'toe to toe' in debate with Muslims at Hyde Park's famous "Speaker's Corner" in London, England remarks: "We are realizing that Islam is not a monolithic set of beliefs, but encompasses a great mosaic of personality types, worldviews, theological positions and agendas, passionately defended. It thus requires a variety of responses from those of us who are tackling them on a regular basis."³

OUR MINISTRY TO MUSLIMS IN INDIA

Eleven years ago we began Malabar Theological College, located in the Malapurm District of the Malabar Region in the Kerala State. There are 700 villages in this district alone and in most of these the highest percentage of people embrace Islam. Our training program concentrates on various ways to reach Muslims as well as Hindus for Christ. First and foremost, we try to break down barriers by creating and building wholesome and personal relationships, modeling Christ-likeness, fasting and prayer, trusting the Holy Spirit to work through our presentations of the "Jesus Film", door-to-door visitation, and literature distribution.

Our English-speaking students receive training and a degree in elementary education as well as their BTh. New churches are continually being planted in these villages and towns where our evangelism teams go weekly to witness for Christ. Currently, in three such churches we have established English medium elementary schools that are operating successfully with both Hindu and Muslim students. In one school we have the beautiful combination of an Evangelical /Pentecostal pastor (one of our graduates) assisted by Muslim and Hindu teachers. The teachers are deeply impressed with our Christian witness and are asking important questions about our faith and we believe they will soon accept Christ as Savior and Lord of their lives.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US REACH MUSLIMS AND HINDUS FOR CHRIST?

We are well on our way to the completion of phase one of our overall plan for MTC. This phase will be a four-story complex comprising a new kitchen, dining hall, classrooms, library, offices, and guest quarters (see Photos below and upper right).



We currently need \$15,500.00 for the completion of this phase. We have had to put on hold any further expansion of elementary schools and new churches until this



construction project is completed. Once this is completed our various outreach ministries to the Muslims and Hindus will go into full operation.

We are in a unique location with a unique opportunity to reach thousands of Muslims and Hindus with the gospel of Christ! **But we cannot do it alone. We need you to help us with three things!**

First PRAY: earnestly for us and for this ministry in India.

Second GIVE: we need you to give your best gift to help complete this building project.

Third SPONSOR: we need sponsors who will give \$25.00, \$50.00, \$100.00 or more each month for the training of these young dedicated ministers who are willing to put their lives 'on the line' for Christ and the evangelization of these Muslims and Hindus.

Will you do as Jesus said, LOOK UPON THIS FIELD THAT IS WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST AND HELP US TAKE THE GOOD NEWS OF HIS SAVING GRACE TO THEM?

1. EMQ, Vol. 38, No:4, Pg. 440

2. World Pulse, 9/16/02, Vol. 37, No:17, Pg. 1

3. Ibid, Pg.5

Words will never be adequate to fully express our deep gratitude for your faithful prayers and support to this ministry. We pray that God will richly bless you and make all grace abound toward you to have abundance in every good work.

Your partners in harvest,

Harley and Donna Fiddler



Partners in Harvest