

Islam in America *Sowing Seeds of Terrorism?*

By Don Kimbro

The caller on the other end of the line got my attention — and fast! His voice was ominous as he spoke in broken English: “Allah is only one who brings us each day. You infidels. Maybe I should bomb you.” The fact that it was a recorded message and several hours old made me even more uneasy. It took me a couple of minutes to determine what set this guy off against our church — a church with a Day Care facility of 160 children — then I remembered the words placed on the outdoor sign on the corner of our property just the day before:

THIS DAY BROUGHT
TO YOU BY JESUS

We called the FBI.

We all know what happened in New York City and Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001. However, the one-way conversation I had that day happened over six months prior to that infamous event. Obviously, the seeds of hate for the Christian message and the name of Jesus had already been sown in at least one man’s heart. Was this an isolated example, represented by the dark side of Islam extremism? Or a misguided “fundamentalist” Muslim perhaps? Or does it represent a religious worldview that Franklin Graham recently described as, “a very evil and a very wicked religion.”¹



Like many Christians, pastors and teachers prior to 9/11, I had a very limited and cursory understanding of the tenets of the religion of Islam and its Muslim followers. It wasn’t a threat to me because it was thousands of miles away in a place often referred to as the *10/40 Window*, that area of our earth that extends from 10 degrees to 40 degrees north of the equator, and stretches from North Africa across to China. It contains the largest population of non-Christians in the world. The popular religions there are Islam, Hindu and Buddhism. Of these, Islam is the most prolific — and the most militant.

The Koran was also just as mysterious to me as its author Muhammad, who apparently was so illiterate that he couldn’t write his own record of his alleged revelations from a god he called Allah, but dictated them to contemporaries who compiled them decades after his death.²

Within a month of the beginning of America’s war on terrorism, our church did what many others did. We offered an instructional class to our church members and general public, in an attempt to inform them of what Islam was all about: it’s origins, beliefs and practices. We experienced an unusually large turnout, including five Muslims (who saw our corner sign) along with their local Imam, from the regional Islamic Center. The meeting was cordial

until the end, when one of the Muslim ladies, who all appeared without their traditional head coverings became incensed, disputing our presentation and loudly claiming that it was Americans who flew the planes into the World Trade Center twin towers and into the Pentagon, not Muslim terrorists. A state of denial or extremist fanaticism?

Since the attack, Islam elements in America have been conducting massive public relations campaigns in an attempt to present the religion as one of peace. Many Christians, in the name of tolerance and seeking understanding have apparently bought into it — even the more conservative evangelical traditions. At a recent forum held at Milligan College in Tennessee, for example, professors hosted a forum “to dispel popular misconceptions about Islam and to ‘open a dialogue between Christians and Muslims.’” They invited the president of the Islamic Center of Northeast Tennessee, Taneem Aziz, who opened the forum by declaring “I think it is best to start by saying that Christians and Jews and Muslims all worship the same God . . .” a position that most evangelicals find abhorrent and one which was apparently not challenged or addressed by the forum hosts. In his attempt to soften the vitriolic nature of the Koran, Aziz said, “If you read one verse of the Koran, and it says to kill the unbelievers, the next verse will say to accept peace if it is offered to you,” a claim which one is hard pressed to find in that order, anywhere in the Koran.³

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. It is also a religion of salvation by works. Good works include reciting the Shahada in Arabic, “there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet”; praying five times daily (in Arabic); giving alms; fasting for 30 days during the month of Ramadan and making a pilgrimage to their holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, once in a lifetime. Keeping these five pillars insures a Muslim’s entrance into eternal Paradise, which is a sensual garden full of pleasures, especially for men.⁴

More disturbingly, however, is the addition to the major teaching of Islam of *Jihad*, or “Holy War,” which prescribes subduing your enemies, anyway possible. The Koran commands Muslims to fight non-Muslims until they exterminate all other religions, leaving Islam as the one and only religion in the world (Sura* 2:193; 8:39).⁵ The Koran is also “filled with elaborate instructions on the conduct of war, the methods of executing the infidels, and the rewards that will accrue to those martyred in a holy war.”⁶ A martyr is promised an automatic entry into Paradise when death comes while fighting for Allah (Sura 3:157).⁷ Al-Ghazzali, one of Islam’s greatest teachers says that when a martyr reaches this Paradise, he “will marry 500 companions, 4,000 virgins, and 8,000 divorced women.”⁸

No wonder young boys (and now young girls) are brainwashed into becoming human bombs in the name of *Jihad*, and with deliberate premeditation, strap explosives to their bodies, and blow themselves up in crowded marketplaces, restaurants and busses to kill as many Christians and Jews as possible.

Is Islam a religion of peace? Not historically. From its beginnings it has been committed to *Jihad*. The duty of every Muslim is to subjugate or destroy unbelievers whom they call “infidels.” Islam’s past and present are tattered with bloody events of conquest ever since its beginnings under Mohammad — fueled through his teachings in the Koran. Upon his death in 622 A.D. his followers took up the sword and advanced Islam by military might, a campaign which continues to this day in many nations of the world.⁹

Afghanistan gave us an upfront and horrifying look at this brutal side of Islam — but it is by no means an isolated example. Wherever Muslims are in the minority, there is a campaign of terrorism to gain control (Israel, India, Philippines, Sudan, Egypt). Wherever they gain the majority, Islam regulates every aspect of life including religion, politics and culture (Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Indonesia, Northern Nigeria). All Islamic countries are ruled by dictators, and civil liberties, like freedom of speech and religion, do not exist. Failure of anyone to obey the laws of Islam results in torture and summary execution. In Riyadh, the capital city of the “moderate” Islamic nation of Saudi Arabia, every Friday evening after prayer a swordsman appears to behead, or cut off the hands or feet of blindfolded criminals in the infamous “Chop-chop Square.”¹⁰

Although many Muslims, especially in the U.S., may say they deplore atrocities committed in the name of Islam, they cannot deny that the Koran actually commands true followers to do violence in the name of Allah. Islam cannot coexist — it commands its followers to dominate.

Christianity and Islam are, without a doubt, two worldviews in conflict, holding no core beliefs in common. Islam denies the Trinity (Sura 4:171); Jesus as the Son of God (Sura 112:2-3); his deity (Sura 9:31), and his death, burial and resurrection (Sura 4:157-58). Christians and Muslims do not worship the same God.

Should we expect extremist Muslims to behave any differently in America as their brothers in faith do in other parts of the world? To the extent that they are in the minority in our country, we can expect increased terrorism — as that is and has been their pattern throughout the world.

What is the appropriate response for Christians toward those who advocate the tenets of such a diabolical religion? Was President Bush correct when he said, “Our war is not against Islam, our war is against terrorism.”? Is Islam, as our President also stated, “One of the great religions in the world”? The Christian response to Islam is that it is a false religion that worships a false god through a false prophet and is a religion which is intent on world domination. Our response to its individual followers, however, should be the same as our response to any other group of people — one that demonstrates the love of Christ and not hatred. Jesus told his followers to love and pray for their enemies and to do good things for them (Mt. 5:44, Lk. 6:27) — and to put away the sword (Mt. 26:52).

Many believe that the looming conflict between Islam and Christianity in America presents an unprecedented opportunity for evangelism. Muslims have a desperate need to know of the one true God who loves them and who has paid the penalty for their sins through Jesus Christ. They need to understand that they have a choice in matters of faith and practice, especially in America, and that the claims of Islam are false. For over ten years now evangelical Christians have been praying for the various unreached people groups in the *10/40 Window*. Christians in America are now more knowledgeable of Muslim beliefs than ever before. Perhaps by making us so much more aware of who, what and where they are — God has granted us that opportunity to reach the followers of Islam right in our communities, with the saving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our church had its first Muslim convert just three months ago. She walked in the door one day and asked one of our pastors to tell her about Jesus. One month later she was baptized and is now being discipled in her new faith. She is also bringing other Muslims to church, buying them dual language bibles and has even been communicating the gospel to a relative by telephone in her native country.

Now that the church’s ignorance of Islam is gone, we must seize this moment in history to reach them for Christ. We may not be able to prevent terrorism from the radical elements of Islam who are already in America but perhaps we can prevent a Muslim from ever becoming a terrorist, through the love of Christ. Certainly no other religious group needs him more.

¹ Adam Bell and Ken Garfield, “In His Own Image,” Albuquerque Journal, Feb. 8, 2002, Section D-1.

² Victor Mordecai, “Is Fanatic Islam a Global Threat” p. 124. Quoted from “The Heart Of Islam: Peace . . . or War?” Monetary & Economic Review,” Nov/Dec 2001. p.8

³ Stephen S. Glass, “Christians and Muslims Unite At Milligan College, Elizabethton Star Online Edition, no date. See www.starhg.com/html/localnews/1001/101001Milligan.html

⁴ Anthony Roberts, “Clash of Worldviews,” Focal Point, Denver Seminary, Spring 2002. p.8.

⁵ Dr. David R. Reagan, “The Truth About Islam,” The Lamplighter, January-February 2002. p.8.

⁶ FAMC Editors, “Islam: The Global Threat,” Monetary & Economic Review, November/December 2001. p.12

⁷ Reagan, p.8

⁸ Randall Price, “Islam and the Middle East Conflict,” an undated and unpublished article, p. 10, quoted in Reagan cited, p.10.

⁹ Reagan. p.5.

¹⁰ Ibid., p.6.