



PRAXIS ADVOCATES

The above logo is, in Arabic, "Jesus is the Light of the World."

IN THE LOOP, HECKMAN NEWS, PRAYER, IDEAS: Share Freely

Our blind Christian friend, a woman, meets a blind Muslim female convert to Christ in church.

In Response To A Crucial Letter to me from my blind friend: How Do You Integrate Converted Muslims Into Our Church?

There are many answers, mostly simplistic and some that work. Here is my answer among many other ideas.

The letter to me from a blind friend: "Dear Don, I'm struggling to work out how to help our female Muslim convert. The down side of just sitting still is that one may get left on one's own for a while, but I've learnt to accept that, being British. I'm sure this is but one example of the problem for MBBs of still another blind converted Muslim woman in relating to the established Church, but God meant us to be a real family, people of all races, personalities, backgrounds etc. This is something I've begun to include in my prayers."

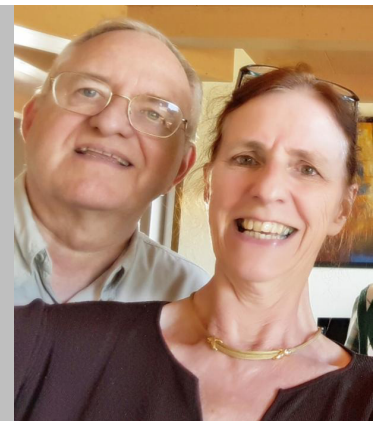
(over... My reply)

...and God made no distinction between us and non-Jews, having cleansed their hearts by faith. 10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? - Peter... Acts 15: 9-10

May 26

Evey went to Lyon to help many Muslim female converts find love again. She brought money from us to help these women get back to their homes in France. About \$500 was needed to get them signed in and returned back home. We found a foundation that is possibly going to help next year.

Thanks, Don and Evey



My reply:

Thanks for your lovely letter. You have plunged the depths of missionary thinking that is an on-going issue, not with many answers to clarify integration of Muslims into parish churches.

This is why I hold seminars in 4 churches in 4 weeks every September in the USA, to help clarify issues of winning Muslims, integrating Muslims, discipling Muslims and knowing what we can do to embrace the Eastern culture so widely spoken of in the Bible but not alienate them from their social culture. Muslim is a culture and a religion. Not to make converts odious to their own people, but winsome!

I'll travel anywhere to share what I call, "Reconciliation of Muslims to Christ." It is a 1, 2 or 3 day seminar.

Leaving that aside, very few Muslims will take the challenge of joining a Western church, since it cuts them off from their community. Muslim, of course, is both a belief system and also a tight "ummah" or fellowship culture. I, for example, could hardly go to a converted Hindi Christian church after myself became a Christian.

With great exceptions, most Muslims will not integrate into our Western church or our way of thinking. Muslims expect a 5-hour service, lunch, extended dance from their culture, worship in their language, and no liturgy from hundreds of years ago. Our problem is that we don't know their life needs. They don't have a problem of not fitting in. We have an unresolved issue.

If a church or church building was associated with being anti-Muslim, culturally, (and they all are), and the mosque would welcome Muslim converts and keep them from being culturally shunned, there must be a third option. And yes, there is a third option. We call it a Jamaat. It is essentially a house church for Muslim converts which does not cut themselves off from their Muslim culture, but grows converts in discipleship and the knowledge of God. When the Jamaat becomes around 20 people, they divide and multiply into 2 Jamaats.

Right now we have very little in planning to train up ex-Muslim church planters. Muslim converts should be quickly taken to a Jamaat with the idea of multiplying and expanding, doubling and doubling and doubling.

I was in India a few weeks ago and with an Indian church planting trainer who has taught his trainees (all Indian ex-Muslims) to have planted 128 Jamaats. These ex-Muslims still fit into their Muslim culture but follow Jesus firmly and are baptized. It would be separate from the church, but the Jamaat forms such a stir that Muslims come to Christ just knowing that they can maintain an Eastern cultural life outlook.

We would have to become salt and light to train up ex-Muslim church planters and accept a different way of church life for these precious people.

My sister in Christ, so much more to share. You have spotted one of the issues that few people realize. Thank you for being so aware by the power of God.

Sincerely,

Don



*I'm Joy, I'm 3. I'm Esther
and Andrews girl and I like
to wear bike helmets all the
time!*

"Jamaat" is Arabic for Disciple Making Communities