

How to do Follow up with the Converted Muslim?

First we have to acknowledge spiritually where is our Muslim friend from faith?

A- Preparation:

Usually our Muslim friend has no conscious awareness of supreme being and no knowledge of God. He will start developing positive attitude towards Christians and their beliefs and the gospel. Our friend will have desire to know more about our God when he is recognizes his personal problem in relation to Islam and his god “Allah” and will say I need to know Jesus to rescue me.

⁸⁰“For a Muslim, The first shock is seeing Islam with open eyes. In the light of Jesus Christ, its basic anti-Christian spirit becomes clear...During this process, Satan, or his underlings, usually stir up people to threaten the new believer with physical harm.”

For a Muslim, to become a Christian, he knows well that it means rejection by his family and society, losing his home and job, torture and imprisonment or expulsion from his country and even facing a possible death sentence. The student Muslim who became Christian had the good sense to phone home and tell his Father I became Christian: These are the three responses from his or her respective father and mother:

⁸⁰Healing the broken family, P.295

- ⁸¹ “1- *“Don’t ever come home again. We will have to kill you if you do”.*
- 2- *“Come home, clear up all your personal affairs, and get out of this country. There is no place here for you”*
- 3- *“You may come home and retain your faith privately if you promise not to share this with anyone.”*

As Christians we must understand a Muslim’s need for Christ, but in the same way we need to understand his hesitation and fear for being a Christian brother. As Christians will be ready to stand with him facing all his problems?

B- The Birth:

The conversion of our Muslim friend, first there is a decision to act. Started with Confession (Acts 2:37; Rom 10:10) repentance, (Acts3:19; 9:35; 14:15; 15:19; 26:18) and Faith in Jesus Christ (*Rom10:13-14, Heb 11:1,6,7/ Acts 27:25/ John 5:24/ John 3:16-19*). A Muslim has to have clear revelation from God that supports his belief in Christ. The same as Peter’s confession of Christ in Matthew 16:13-20.

⁸¹ Ibid, 298

⁸²“*As a new believer realizes that what he or she considered an acceptable religion before was actually bondage to the very enemy of God.*”

Muslims, upon becoming a Christian, face the problem of remaining in Islamic culture. In prayer, they learn and recognize that they should be free from the bondage of their culture and the spirit of anti-Christian. They must take off the old cloth “Islam” and put on the new cloth “Christ”. They need to enter to a new life that Jesus Christ provided for them in order to live and survive. Muslim friends should separate themselves from the old practices and habits they were doing in Islam which opens doors for the evil spirits to enter to their lives again, like reciting the Qur’an and praying in the name of Muhammed, doing the Islamic rituals and others.

1Corinthians 6:19 *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?* If someone hesitates and does not take the courage and faith and follow Christ, it means that the new faith only stays in his head, but does not reach his heart. 2Corinthians 6: 14-18 *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is*

⁸²Ibid, 295

there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?...

⁸³“A clear distinction between light and darkness, between death and life, is in the long run imperative. The link by faith with Jesus Christ compels a Muslim to turn away from Allah, and to abide in the Father. But most converted Muslims hesitate to complete that turning away at once; they do it mostly step by step, as they grow in faith. But there is no getting home without turning around.”

C- Seven Steps for Follow up and Growth

The first step is assurance of salvation: What will happen to this student after he returns home? Sadly, many newly converted Muslims, without any preparation for returning and without the support of caring Christian friends, will lose touch with their faith. Our Muslim friend doesn't know how to have an intimate relationship with God. Because he had believed that Allah is a transcendent, creator and judge and there is no way to interact or reach Him. Also your Muslim friend believes that he is born weak but not sinful and he can wipe out his sins by special good deeds and now he needs Jesus as his savior because he

⁸³Should every Muslim who becomes a Christian die? Abd al-Masih,(Grace and truth.P.O.Box 1806. 70708 Fellback. Germany, 2002) p.7,8

discovered that no one is good except God. The word grace has different meaning in Islam.

⁸⁴“In the Qur’an the word “grace” occurs 38 times. Muslims believe that they are living under the permanent grace of Allah. But in Islam, grace means something different from the Bible. Allah’s mercy rests on those Muslims who are strong, successful, healthy and honorable. Someone who has many sons, herds, cars, racing camels and money has been privileged by Allah in receiving grace upon grace.”

Important thing after conversion, in laying proper foundations is to ensure that our Muslim friends who have Jesus Christ living in them are secure in their assurance of salvation and that they are saved by God’s grace and not by their own deeds(Romans 10:9-10), forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7), acceptance by God as His children (John 1:12-13), and possessing eternal life (1John 5:11-13).

⁸⁵“As Christians we need to understand, it is not a light thing for a Muslim to become a Christian and we must be friend him all the way. As he takes his first tottering steps as a baby Christian he will stumble and fall, you did, and more than once. Will you a his parent, lift him

⁸⁴Ibid, P.8

⁸⁵Muslim Friends, Bud Accord, (Al-Nour, P.O.Box 985, Colorado Springs, Co 80901, 1994) P. 9,10

up, dust him off, and set him on the straight path once again? It takes time and patience to be a parent, spiritually as well as physically.

Maturity comes slowly. As our Lord has patience with us, so must we have patience with these “new born” ones of His. The follow up of the new believer is vitally as important as his first step in conversion. It has been estimated that among 50-70% of all Muslim converts return to Islam. where has the failure been? ”

Help him to recognize who he is as a child of God and encourage him to build personal relationship with God: "Quiet time" (Jesus in the temple of God at age 12) *Luke 2:41-52*. Explain to him about the quiet time. The quiet time gives him comfort, hope and security to his future. Increase his love and knowledge about God. *Ph1:9-10* until he discover God's will and understand his mind and heart *Eph 1:17-23, Col 1:9. God will reveal himself to those who sit with him James 4:8/ Prov.8:17/ Ps 34/*

The second step is the close relationship, individual follow up meet in informal places or homes. Usually this is work the best. And be a mother who sees the mistakes of her child, but she will punish it with love and hope for its improvement.

⁸⁶*“A convert quickly notices the weaknesses of other Christians. He sees how the Pastor steps onto the pulpit with his head high and preaches from the pulpit in a tone different from his normal way of speaking”*

As Christians we need the eyes of a mother when we deal with new converted Muslim friend not the eyes of police officer. Helping him or her to develop life goals and a holy life. “Without sanctification nobody will see the Lord!”

In Islam you are officially allowed to lie. Your friend needs to learn it is not OK to lie, “White lie or black lie” study with him Ephesians 4:17-32. In V.25 *Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.*

After conceiving growing should take place in you and your friend’s life. *Luke 2:40* The child Jesus grew. He became strong and wise, and God blessed him. This involves seeing potential achievement in his life. Share with him the potential you see. Discover and discuss the specific goals he has. Assume a personal responsibility for the development of his goals. Discern the conflicts which hinder the development of these goals. Suggest ways and means to help him achieve these goals. Be alert to scripture which would encourage or guide him.

⁸⁶Should every Muslim who becomes a Christian die? Abd al-Masih,(Grace and truth.P.O.Box 1806. 70708 Fellback. Germany, 2002) p.38

The third step is the intimate relationship in which you share a commitment to character development. Ask him to share with you what he thinks are his character strengths and weaknesses. Encourage him regarding character strengths you see in him. Ask him if he wants you to help him overcome his character weaknesses. Discuss together how developing his strengths and overcoming his weaknesses will make him more pleasing and useful to God. Search the Scriptures and wait on God together for keys to overcoming his weaknesses. Be committed to faithfulness, loyalty and availability.

The fourth step sending him to discipleship training schools or to conferences short or long term that help him to know God in a deeper way. Pray with him: By praying with him and continue to disciple him, which is very essential to keep him from the fall. Teach the Muslim how to pray to the Father in the name of the son Jesus Christ. Pray for anointing and help him or her to walk by faith and to develop of Christian leadership skill: How to follow Jesus, willing to sacrifice, doing effective outreach to others and release peace and blessings to his enemies.

⁸⁷“Prayer is communication with God during which we confess sin, worship, and thank god, expressing our deepest thoughts, desires, disappointments, and intercessions to Him.”

⁸⁷ Nate Mirza, *Home Again.*(: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993), 39.

The fifth step teach him the meaning of the two ordinances in the bible: The meaning of the water Baptism, and the communion (the Lord supper). Teach him the value of fellowship with other Christians and don't leave the Muslim to evil company. Muslims people in general do not function as individuals. They are closely connected to their families by flesh and blood, soul and custom.

⁸⁸“They live as “We” together with their relatives in line with the same principles, the same religion, and in a mutual responsibility for one another. Many were married or chosen for higher studies, or entered into influential positions in the government by decision of the clan. Without his family or clan the individual in the Orient is nothing and feels lost.”

The tradition bonds within his family are the strongest barrier for a Muslim to become a Christian. And its painful to break off from his or her own blood family. If he did that is mean he needs to adopt and sometimes he or her expect from the new spiritual family to treat him well with respect and love and accept him as one of them and part of what they are doing. When he or she approach the church or contact Christians, he is often deeply shocked. They dress and behave

⁸⁸Should every Muslim who becomes a Christian die? Abd al-Masih,(Grace and truth.P.O.Box 1806. 70708 Fellback. Germany, 2002) p.15

speak and think differently. He feels rejected, no one trust him or her. or they feel that people in the church, suspect I am a spy no one understanding me and trust or believing me. So he or she why I should come here again? One of the problems he might experience while trying to visit, or find a church community is that some churches might not welcome him with open hands. Explain to him that people differ in personalities, even if they are Christian, but if he is aware that this might happen, it will help him not to let go of his faith. There are always other churches waiting for someone like him. So why I should come here again? It is important to explain to our Muslim friend our weaknesses and failure as a church and our differences as human being and diverse. Offer him or her help to be function better in the family of God. Talk to him or her, invite them to your home and make him or her feel that they are part of the family. Also open to learn from them because we are all belong together.

The sixth step train him by recognition and utilization of spiritual gifts in a small group: My growing conviction is that we need to train and equip our Muslim brother to do the Christian life in small groups, a model that they can take anywhere in the world. I think that training a Muslim student to lead a small group is one of the best ways we can prepare him to take root and be fruitful back home.

The seventh step encourage him to study the word of God, growth in the bible study, understanding the application of bible doctrine. Explain the facts about

Christianity: Our believe in one God, the Holy Trinity. The term of Son of God and Son of man. The meaning for the redemption and Cross. The inspiration of the Word of God. The importance of spiritual birth and remove of the original sin. The highest standard for Christian life: Holiness and love.

⁸⁹“The Bible is God’s primary means through which He makes Himself and His will known to us (Hebrews 1:1-3). We must help our friends learn to feed on god’s Word for themselves, so that they will not fall when they are alone because they have become too dependent on others.”

Help him to Obey the word by being and example to him by tithing (Malachi 3:7-10) , sharing your testimony. Rev.12:11, forgiving others. Matt 18:15, learning how to wait Ps 37 and by receiving peace.

⁹⁰“Obedience is God’s chosen key to a greater knowledge of Christ (John 14:21,23) and spiritual maturity(Hebrews 5:11-14). By example and teaching we must show Muslim students how to put into practice what God says in the Bible based on our love for Christ. This may involve changing attitudes and behavior in relationships, habits,

⁸⁹. Ibid, 38.

⁹⁰ Ibid, 39, 40.

priorities, what we feed our minds, or how we serve Him.

Interdependence within the Body of Christ is the recognition that when Jesus saved us, he placed us into a body of believers.

Interdependence is found in one-to-one relationships, small discipleship groups, house churches, large churches, and world-level conferences. Evangelism is to the believer as farming is to the farmer, or running to the runner. Jesus commissioned His followers to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth Acts 1:8)."

Get clear vision for his or her future. To follow up a Muslim friend not only means spiritual counseling but also caring for physical needs.

D- Mistakes we often do with convert Muslim

Don't worry about making mistakes, learn from your mistakes,

⁹¹“ Nothing is wrong with making mistakes or failing, I don't mind failing as long as I keep my long-range vision, regroup after failure, learn from my mistakes, move ahead once again and avoid making the same mistake twice”

⁹¹ C. Peter Wagner, Warfare Prayer (Regal Books, A Division of Gospel light, Ventura, California, USA, 1992), P.182

There are common mistakes that we make in working with converted Muslims. One mistake is giving them too much at once and not narrowing your objectives for each time you meet him or her. Another is leading them on by asking for their opinion about our program but never giving them a chance to see it or involve with in it. Another is talking down to them instead of treating them as equals or misleading them, such as telling them we will meet for a one hour, but then staying for half hour or we will meet for short time and staying longer, this builds lack of trust. A convert Muslim needs is trust, understanding and love. Yet another mistake is not being sufficiently flexible with your schedule to meet with the Muslim convert on weekends, evenings, and other times that suit their schedule. When working with converted Muslims, be sensitive to their cultural orientation of losing face. You may lose them if you bring up their inconsistencies. Just love them, and believe the best about them. Being in the American habit of rushing can also be a problem. Be willing to spend more than one hour with them. Do not get caught in the appointment syndrome. To follow up a Muslim friend not only means spiritual counseling but also caring for physical needs. We need to be sensitive for their needs. Some are ready to change their religion for the sake of money or to gain respect and protection. One of the mistakes is not prepare the community to accept the Muslim converts. Other be over exiting encourage and allow the new converted Muslim to give a testimony of his faith from the pulpit he

would soon burst like a blown-up balloon. He should be given small services or small group, so that he feels that he has been accepted and treated like others.

Some converted bring along a Muslim to be baptized, so that he or she can marry a Christians in order to stay in USA.

Major mistakes we do is not sharing with them your calling and vision. And not allow them see what we doing and let them involve in God's ministry.

VII- How to "Follow up" your friend when he goes back to his country

Our role as Christians and as brothers of this Muslim believer is to stand with him or her not only here in USA but when they goes back to his or her own country. The first question that I have to ask myself and others will he or she has Christian friends to stand by him or her, support, and accept when he or her goes back to his or her country?

We need to encourage our Muslim friend that he or she will not be alone. For a Muslim in his or her country the spiritual support and Christian fellowship may be difficult, if not impossible, to find. Your Muslim friend should know that Jesus will be with him all the time as he promised. The love of Christ is greater than we think. Jesus said to us in his word John 10:28 *No one can snatch us out of my hand*"

⁹²*“It is said that Jesus once showed one of His followers in a dream two trails of footprints in wet sand explaining: Look I have accompanied you faithfully for a long time. “When the second trail of footprints disappeared over a dangerous cliff, the dreamer reproachfully asked: “ Why have you left me alone in the greatest need?” Then the Lord answered him: “ I carried you until the way improved.”*

Plan to visit them. Encourage them from God’s own words or promises and affirm him with the assurance that you will keep him daily in your prayers.

⁹³*“Make an effort to correspond with them, or on occasion call or even visit them if you are planning an overseas trip. They need to see that your love for them is genuine and lasting. Your witness to them back home could be more profound than when they were with you.”*

Write and send letters, email, gift of encouragement and love.

⁹²Abd al-Masih, The great commission of Jesus our Lord, (Grace and Truth,P.O.Box.1806. 70708 Fellbach. Germany, 2001) p.15,16

⁹³.ISI, *Preparing Your International Friend For Life back Home.* 24.

⁹⁴“*It is often the case that our pilgrimage to faith in Christ is accompanied by the witness and encouragement of several Christians along the way. God is not limited to just using us in the lives of our Muslim friends. We may continue to water the seeds of the Gospel that were planted here by writing or sending interesting books or articles, as appropriate. But we should also pray that God would bring other Christians into the lives of our friends.*”

Unfortunately, when it is time for him to go back to his Muslim country and to his Muslim family and friends, he starts having fear and doubts. He may express anxiety about the overreaction of his parents, family, or colleagues to his new faith. Explain to him or her how important it will be for him to find a group of believers or a church that will be supportive to him, both spiritually and emotionally.

⁹⁵“*The local church already exists and does not have to be formed. It is usually indigenous, using the local language and cultural forms. It offers a spiritual family,*

⁹⁴.Tom Phillips, Bob Norsworthy & Terry W. Whalin, *The World at Your Door*. (Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1997), 179.

⁹⁵. Ibid, 81.

which is especially needed for those converted Muslim students. It may be an international church that uses English, thus being closer to what the graduate has come from. There are outstanding Christian leaders from many nations who have gained international experience from studying in seminaries or universities abroad or having spoken at international congresses. This kind of atmosphere makes the returnee feel more at home.”

Groups supplementary or organizations that could help him.

⁹⁶*“The second source of fellowship is groups supplementary to the local church, made up of people who identify with each other, having had similar experiences abroad as well as upon returning home. They can help new returnees at many levels because they themselves have traveled that road. They, too, have had to struggle with issues like job hunting, corruption, family relationships, and marriage.”*

⁹⁶. Ibid, 82.

Keep the door open for your friend to come back if he attacks by his family or the Muslim community. May your Muslim friend in a dangerous situation. God can open no one can close and God can close no one can open. He should not leave his father's house because of tensions and pressure. No-one loves him more than his parents! When a Muslim become your brother and accepted by a family of Christians they should protect him. Send him an invitation from you or from a church or any organization could help him. Arrange his visa, find him a job, encourage him to get married and support him financially.

⁹⁷“Joining a parish, finding a job and conducting a Christian marriage are three important steps to integrate converts into a Christian church.”

⁹⁷Should every Muslim who becomes a Christian die? Abd al-Masih,(Grace and truth.P.O.Box 1806. 70708 Fellback. Germany, 2002) p.37