

September 5, 2017

Tom Harding – Devo

God changing us into His likeness

Hinges on my personal hunger for God

II Cor. 4:1

Your calling is a result of the mercy of God in your life

A calling is a fire within us, that changes us at the very core of who we are

Session 1

Islam is rising; it is the fastest growing religion in the world – because of birth rate. 1.2 billion Muslims in the world today. Global Church must come together to be involved in engaging Muslims. We must share and learn from one another how it is working so the rest of the world can do it. How can we do this better?

What are your expectations during this time together?

- desire to be deeply involved with Muslim people
- learn about what is happening
- what would it be like for Turkic Arabic and African workers to be moving toward each other in reaching Muslims in-between – network?
- how can we work together?
- learn from practitioners
- sharpen our ideas
- success stories
- more skills
- challenges – talk about winning extremists, trusting extremists who come to Christ, church response, death threats
- significance of money and mission
- effective strategies, vision & plan
- discipleship
- how can I make a Muslim my friend?
- clear understanding
- educational curriculum for Muslims
- how do we help new Muslims – face the challenges that follow their conversion?

Success Stories – Best Practices

- Ghana – meeting needs of needy Muslim communities – gives an opening for sharing, they will listen then
- Liberia – clean drinking water – wells – gives opportunity for evangelism
- Use Jesus film in their own language
- Friendship, oneness
- Cell groups meet after Jesus Film, give tracts to talk about

- Time is required for investment in new converts
- Schools, education is a means of sharing the Gospel with children
- Teaching is important with illiterate people –
- Jesus film, audio Scriptures
- Let the family know you care – helping with school fees, care for them, love them, not debate, - live among them
- Let them see and hear about Jesus – don't argue about Mohammed, their beliefs
- Friendship very important – will result in a friend bringing his friends to hear
- Don't talk about beliefs that are offensive to Muslims at first– Jesus as the Son of God
- Interact with community for agreement in planting a church in a Muslim community
- Cooperative efforts with local churches

Group 1 (Liberia & Ghana)

- Jesus Film ministry
- Christian schools – to preach Christ in schools
- Wholistic ministry e.g. safe drinking water
- Testimonies about what Christ is doing for us
- Live good, exemplary lives before Muslims
- Prayer – Muslims join Christians for prayer

Group 2 (See above – Ghana, Liberia)

- Needy communities - provide economic relief, attention

Group 3 (Uganda & Mozambique)

Process:

- Research
- Prayer
- Identify the team/train
- Identify the contact/person
- Creating good relationships
- Resources (materials/materials)
- Contextualize the message
- Methods of deliver – Jesus Film, Audio Scriptures, Mega
- Church Identifying with the Muslim Community (Social ministry, compassion ministry)

Andrew Bondo: empower needy Muslims; partnership; learn from failures

Group 4 (Ghana Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Cameroon)

- Jesus Film – very helpful
- Meeting needs/not just money
- Showing love to persecuted Muslims

- Social amenities – schools, hospital, etc.
- Underground discipleship – introducing gradually in conversation as you build trust and relationship
- Life of integrity – cause them to ask questions
- Morning prayer/preaching – broadcasting at 5:00 am – praying for the needs of the community, preaching
- Indigenous leadership
- Personal testimonies – how you came to Christ, salvation stories – a way of people opening up
- Minister within your gender
- Befriend the wealthy; they are lonely
- Offer prayer for healing – healing brings Muslims to Jesus
- Visit them especially when they are in trouble, meet them in their home – they will see you as a caregiver, attracting them to Jesus
- Respect age
- Value them – listen to them
- Join them in what they are doing, meet them where they are (not compromising)

Lucas (Uganda)

- We do nothing apart from prayer and fasting “the power of the knees”

How can we love Muslims?

- Pray for them by name, on the spot – in Jesus name! (Can I pray for you right now?)
- Visit them in their homes, especially in difficult time
- Befriending, respecting, listening
- Surprise with gifts
- Remember they are made in God’s image; they are sincerely wrong
- Get to know them, engage with them in their culture
- to a certain degree
- Accept them as a person
- Be receptive
- Offer Jesus Christ to them
- Suffer alongside with them
- Be patient in teachings, don’t rush to correct Muslim false teachings
- Be patient with the process – Muslims may not be ready to publicly proclaim their new found Christian faith; give them time
- Obey God
- Be careful with money

What are things have not worked? What are we struggling with?

- Doing nothing
- Accepting Jesus as/on the same level as Mohammed
- Turning down an invitation to worship at the church
- Refusing to believe that Muslims are truly lost
- Failing to do follow-up/discipleship will result in them falling away
- Trying to rush things
- Arguing against their beliefs – Jesus is God, Jesus didn't die, Trinity,
- We don't trust the Holy Spirit
- Prevail in prayer

Questions:

1. How could a global network be beneficial?
 - We would not be alone
 - We could collaborate, share resources
 - Give courage
 - Share stories, successes & failures
 - We would be more likely to focus and do Muslim ministry
 - Give accountability
 - Identify the strengths and weaknesses of various countries
 - Motivate others
 - Encouragement
 - Shared information
 - Unite prayer movement across the world
 - Education
2. What elements need to be present in order for a global network to be effective?
 - Secrecy
 - Pray together, protect organization of it
 - Develop sensitivity through articles, stories
 - Preaching to believers – to change thinking
 - Skills & practices – grow in knowledge about what Muslim believe, how to engage with Muslims, training
 - Sharing information
 - Effective communication
 - United purpose, focus
 - Vulnerability, openness
 - Intercession
 - Right people
 - Clear vision
 - Easily accessible

- Be realistic
 - Right timing
3. What are some practical ideas for making this a reality?
- Training
 - Money – have a budget for the Muslims
 - Exchange teachers, informed people
 - Area seminars
 - Africa Area Seminars
 - Africa Area/Regional organizational contacts, groups, agencies
 - Social media groups
 - Shared online resources
 - Change statistic reporting
 - Summits
 - United agenda as a movement, measurable
 - ICWC
 - Systems of Accountability

Day 2 Ghana Consultation

Devotions: Dr. Jackson

God is always on mission

Philip is chosen in Acts 6 to care for the widows – full of the Spirit and faith

(Discovery Bible Study Method)

1. Read Acts 8: 14-17, 26-40
2. Retell the story in your own words (2 persons)
3. Read the passage again. Do you see more insights?
4. What do we learn about God? – God instructing Philip what to do, where to go, what to say
5. What do we learn about people? The apostles and Ethiopian recognized the truth, trusted God, obeyed
6. Is there a command to obey or an example to follow? Receive the Holy Spirit, Go, preach the Word of God, to go near to the person, taught him, baptized
7. How are you going to practice this passage? Listen to the lost, obey God
8. Who do you know who needs to hear this lesson?

Dream time

What would it be like to reach the Muslim countries in northern Africa?

What would it be like for us? Our countries?

Draw the binoculars (2 circles – As is; Could be)

One eye to the future; one eye to the past/present

As is

Challenges

Frustrations

Concerns

Is it balanced/unbalanced?

Victories?

The focus is expanding Muslim ministry

Could be

Aspirations

Dreams

Visions

goals

- See the future through the challenges of “as is”
- The “as is” are man sized; the “could be” are God sized
- Keep it on the foundation of Jesus Christ, Scripture, our vision/mission statement, our identity in Christ – to keep this “could be” vision in balance

5 minutes silence to ask God to speak to us about what “could be” in regard to reaching Muslims in northern Africa

Pray together as groups

Red light/Green light time

Green light

In what ways can we expand Muslim ministry in Africa?

- Recruit more volunteers
- Identify strategies
- Be abreast of language
- Identify the area, where and who
- Encourage and equip local church members to reach Muslim neighbors
- Respect/learn about their culture – dress, way of life
- Make it a priority to address – ministry to Muslims
- Games and sports, activities – to get to know them
- Build trust
- Build relationships
- Sharing resources with them, needs that are prevalent
- Jesus Film, Evangelistic team
- Scholarships for Muslims in Christian schools
- Live with them – missionary
- Review strengthening courses on reaching Muslims in our Bible Colleges
- Encourage relationships with tolerant Muslims in our neighborhood

- Providing support for victimized/persecuted Muslims
- Love them deeply
- Partner with mosques in meeting to social needs of community
- Make effort to mingle, interact in life rather than keeping our distance

Sharing ideas from groups

- Identify target groups
- Remove geopolitical boundaries
- Empower lay people
- Organize interactive groups (sports, clubs etc.)
- Ministry to head-porters, witch camps – preach, activities
- Training centers for reaching Muslims
- Clean water
- Mission/vision trips to assess what is there
- Budget for Muslim ministry
- Schools in Muslim areas
- Send missionaries
- Partner with Muslim background believers - pastors' wives
- Reaching out to Muslim widows, empowering them through the Gospel and social outreach
- Outreach to elderly
- College curriculums for reaching out practically, knowledgably
- Evangelical voice in the government
- Establish prayer movement
- Use Jesus Film in heart language
- Visiting and living with them in their communities
- Resources to train leaders, well-trained
- Creating self-sustaining structures
- Intentional vision casting
- Build organizational structure that are mission-focused
- Include Muslim ministry training in all Bible Schools
- Sending our best – called
- International advocacy for Christians, for the marginalized
- Orphanages for HIV/Ebola/mudslide, etc. children, clinics
- Encourage minister for missions – rebrand
- Water-well ministry
- Train Christians in using the Qu'ran to bring Muslims to Christ
- Learning the language – to be able to laugh and tell stories
- Translating Scripture to local Muslim languages
- Provide support for victimized/persecuted/oppressed Muslims
- Educate yourself about what Muslims understand about Christian beliefs

Break into groups of those who work together to find the best 3 ideas that can be put into practice immediately – with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

Plan of Action (Example)

Date _____ Area: _____

Desired result: To see each team member quarterly consistently sharing stories from the New Testament with their Muslim contacts for evangelical purposes

Answer: How? Where? Who?

Each Team member will learn a parable of Jesus with their Muslim tutor. Then they can share this story 3 times a week with contacts.

To Do:

Date:	Action:
Sept. 15	Announce plan to the team
Sept. 30	Deadline for memorizing story
Oct. 7	Debrief first week at team meeting
Oct. 30	Measure one month results

The benefits of building trust:

- Muslims are naturally suspicious
- Build a bridge
- Congenial atmosphere
- More open, less hostile
- Enable them to see the love of God
- Education
- Show Muslims the strength of Christianity

Are there risks in developing friendships with Muslims?

- Personal
- Financial (economic)
- Revenge
- Legal action
- Death
- Tend to rush the friendship; wait for the friendship to mature
- Frustration
- Discouragement
- Betrayal of trust because of deep religious beliefs
- Muslims can easily depend on you
- Develop a friendship without godly purpose can result in family, friendship lost
- Loss of belief

- Muslims can be in the Christian community, but not committed
- Having no boundaries is risky
- Criticism
- Ostracized by church for developing friendship with Muslims

In what ways can we build bridges while minimalizing the risks?

- Trust God in the midst of adversity
- Good reputation – our lives should speak to them; lives of integrity
- Strong prayer for them and us
- Reaction should reflect Christ – with love, patience, not anger, revenge
- Develop relationships with Muslims cost effectively and with reasonable risk – prayerful, alert and calculative – for the purpose of the glorify of God
- Keep our purpose in mind
- Trust the Holy Spirit
- Look for entry points – the right timing, places of building bridges e.g. – observe Muslims who are interested in Scripture; our stories; Bible stories, be bold
- Allow to come to Christian schools (teacher/student)

Exit point: talk about Trinity, God’s Son (build trust first)

- Be genuine, sincere, trustworthy, honest, have pure motives
- Evangelize and leave the result with God
- Understanding your audience – what group they are with
- Set appropriate boundaries

How do we use the Qur’an and Muslim religious practices, beliefs, Mohammed?

- Listen, respect
- Be informed about Muslims beliefs
- Use the words they use...such as... “assalomu aleykum”
- Identify common themes – “C.A.M.E.L. Method”
- Talk about the Bible, Prophet Jesus rather than Prophet Mohammed
- Not get too deeply involved in the Qur’an
- Predominantly speak through: our stories, our lives, Scripture

80% of Muslim Background Believers revert to Islam

Dr. Jackson:

People are defined culturally

Community includes friends, family

At the core is their beliefs

Muslims need community

If complete families come to Christ – they hold on to their community so key to their identity & well-being.

In what ways can we engage communities as opposed to individuals?

- University campus ministries
- Jesus Film to whole communities
- Preach, give devotionals, prayer in communities
- Sports – outreach
- Chaplaincy at hospital for Muslims
- Prison ministry
- Through influential people – fathers, imams
- Language groups
- **W**elcomes you and your message
 - pens
 - ikos (family, community)
 - L istens to the Word
- Secretive believers - ???
- Do not use force
- Focus on sharing in Groups
- Discovery Bible Study – see the Bible study method that Dr. Jackson taught (Acts – Philip, Ethiopian eunuch)

Ephesian 3:14-21 – Paul’s prayer