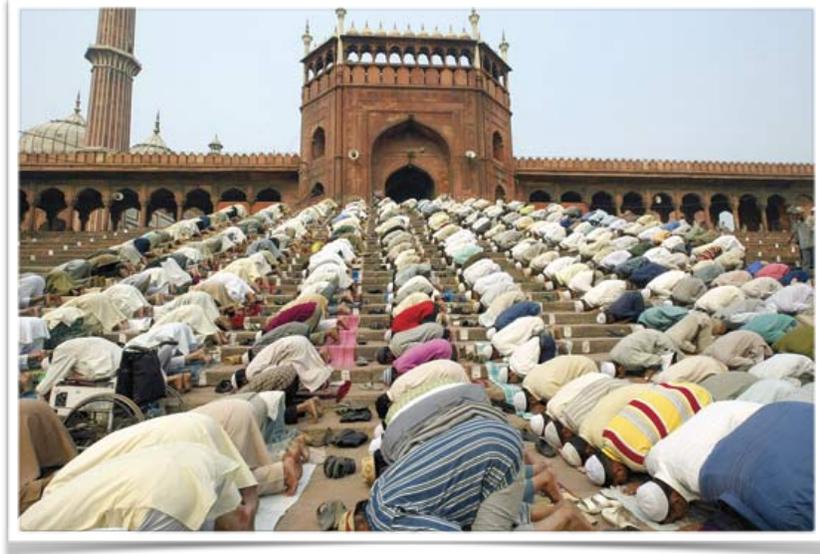


"The Cry of Ishmael"



Ramadan 2018

30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World.

To understand Islam you must look at the Islamic prophet and founder Mohammad, and his life.

ISLAM - A Brief History.

Islam according to Muslims is the true universal monotheistic religion revealed to mankind from the beginning, through prophets such as Abraham, Moses, David and Jesus. The teachings of these previous prophets have been distorted, but according to Muslim beliefs, Mohammad is the last prophet to whom Allah, revealed a superior message, recorded in the Quran and venerated as the verbatim word of God.

To understand Islam you must look at the Islamic prophet and founder Mohammad, and his life. He is considered the "ideal man", a model for all Muslims, though he is not to be worshipped.

Mohammad the founder of Islam was born in 570 AD in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. His father died before he was born and his mother died when he was six, he then moved to live with his grandfather who then died two year later, when Mohammad was eights. He was then raised by his uncle Abu Talib.

Mohammad later worked for a wealthy widow, Khadijeh, whom he got married to at the age of twenty five while she was forty five. He spent much of his early life in caravan trading ventures. During this time in Arabia, there were Jews and Christians, but much of Arabia was into idol worship, with Mecca being the center that housed an estimated 360 idols in the black house called ka'aba. Here the caravan merchants would stop and worship the idols.

According to Muslim history at the age of 40 in 610 AD, Mohammad began to receive revelations that he initially thought were demonic, until his wife Khadijeh convinced him that he was a prophet sent by God to his people the Arabs.



These messages he claimed came from angel Gabriel, the final and superior message from Allah, formed the basis of the Quran. Over a twenty year period he developed a following and eventually an army that allowed him with great force and brutality subdue any form of opposition, and spread Islam all through the Arabian peninsula into Persia (Iran and Iraq), Constantinople, (now renamed Istanbul - the then seat of Christianity), into India and established the Mongol empire, North Africa and then advanced into Europe in 1589, where they were stopped in Vienna, Austria by prayers. The Lord responded by sending a terrible snow storm, that turned them back. Otherwise the entire Europe would have been Islamized and we would never have had the benefits of missionaries bringing the gospel to us.

Mohammad died in 632 AD in medina, Saudi Arabia. Disputes over his succession led to the formation of the two main branches of Islam, Sunni and Shia.

The first caliphate failed to take over the world as planned, but they made some pretty good strides throughout the entire continent of Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. Today Al Quada, ISIS, Boko haram, Al Shabaab and others like them are determined to advance Islam at all cost and form a second caliphate where the first failed. Only the prayers of the Church and evangelization of Muslims can defeat the advancement of the second caliphate.

The five pillars of Islam.

The Islamic religion is lived out according to five main "pillars" which are obligatory religious practices for all adult Muslims.

- 1) Reciting the creed (shahada) "there is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his prophet".
- 2) Prayer (salat) five times each day.
- 3) Alms giving (zakat) both obligatory and voluntary giving to the poor.
- 4) Fasting (saum) especially during the month of Ramadan.
- 5) Pilgrimage (hajj) at least once in a lifetime to Mecca.

During Ramadan many Muslims are seeking an encounter with God and better understanding of His ways, this is a great opportunity for Christians to stand in the gap on their behalf and ask the Lord to reveal Himself to them.

(Extracts from: 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World - The Voice of the Martyrs).

PRAYER FOCUS - May 15th - May 20th.

"As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live..." Ezekiel 33:11. (NLT)

- 1) We want to ask God in these few early days of Ramadan to please reveal Himself to Muslim seekers all over the world.
- 2) To put Christians in the path of these seekers who would share the gospel with them.
- 3) To make Muslims worldwide disillusioned by the wave of violence by Muslim terrorists and to seek for the true God.
- 4) Pray for protection and progress of the missionaries working amongst Muslims.
- 5) Pray the hearts of many Muslims would be open to the truth during this season.

DID YOU KNOW?

23.2% of the global population identify as Muslim - that's 1.6 billion people.

62% of these people live in Asia-Pacific region.

20% in the Middle East and North Africa.

16% in sub-Saharan Africa.

3% in Europe.

Less than 1% of the global Muslim population live in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean.

(Pew Research and Center, December 2012).

Jesus Christ revealing Himself to Muslims.

Check out this video on YouTube.

The story in this video is very personal, I know the person and ministry that led this lady to the Lord.

<https://youtu.be/TJUh-Jeqfrg>