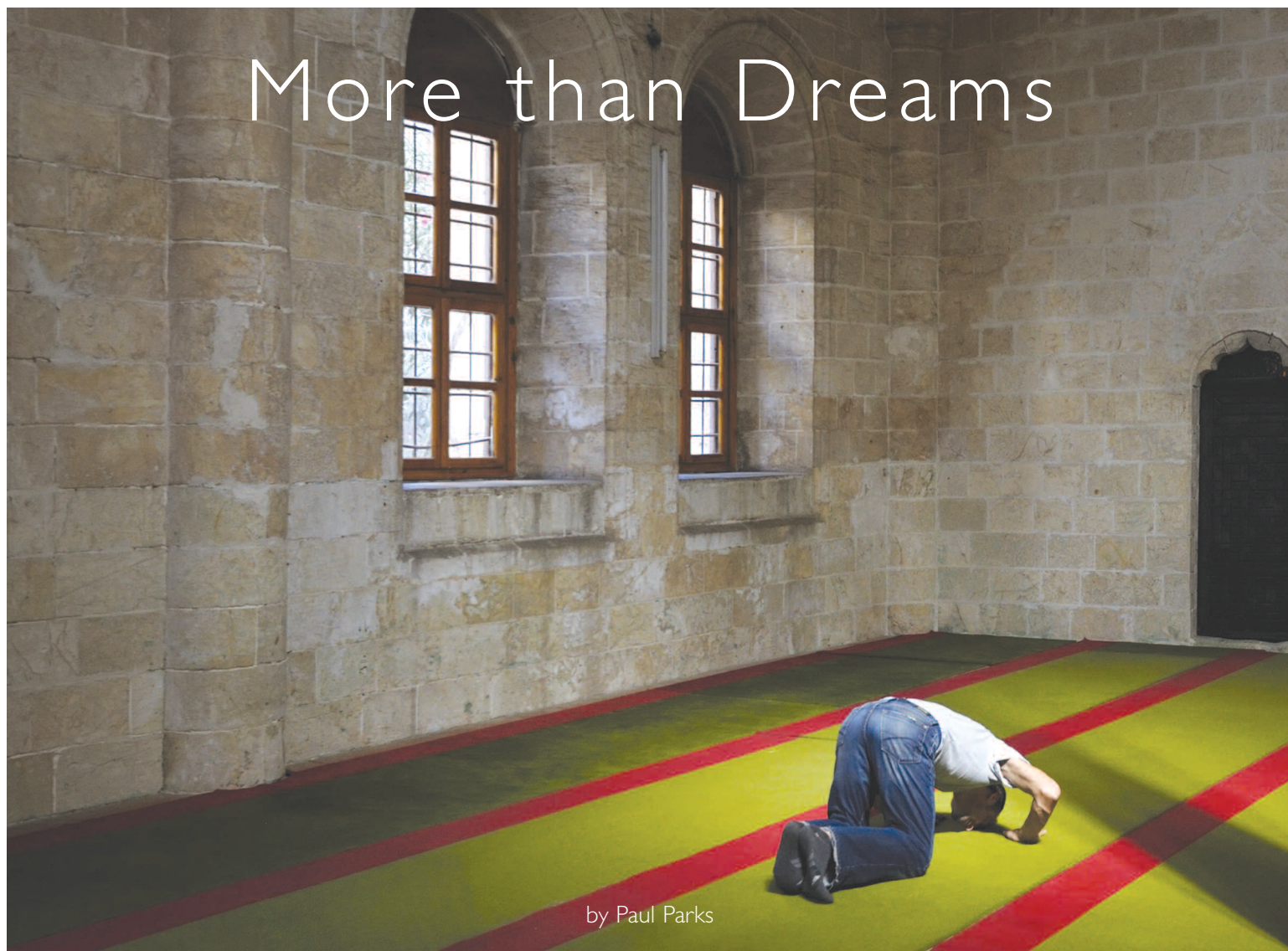


# INTERCEDE

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## More than Dreams



by Paul Parks

Today many Muslims are asking “Who is Jesus, and why has He come?” In seeking God for the answer, they are often encountering Jesus in dreams and visions.

A few years ago in a Middle Eastern country a group of terrorists trained in the desert in order to overthrow their “un-Islamic” government. They spent their days practicing marksmanship and honing their ability to surprise the enemy. They were taught to be ruthless and unmerciful.

Khalil was a part of this small band of about 20 men. He was a scholar who had shown an ability to argue and debate with the best. One night the terrorists were to

receive a special visitor. He was a holy man, the emir; and was considered to be their spiritual advisor. It was Ramadan and they were excited to see him. He brought unhappy news: At the local hospital in the capital city, Christians were evangelizing Muslims who were coming for treatment. This news stirred their anger. How could their government tolerate such behavior from the Christians who opposed true Islam?

The holy man took a book from out of his robes and handed it to Khalil. Upon being told that it was a Christian Bible, Khalil dropped the book to the ground. He was fearful of the Bible. He had heard that Christians

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# Until All Have Heard

*How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? – Romans 10:14*

**Jim Bennett, Director**  
**Center for**  
**Ministry to Muslims**



Recently in Africa I met with leaders of ministries from around the world — whose common aim is to provide an adequate witness of Jesus Christ to the world's 1.2 billion Muslims.

It was sobering to be reminded that there are 230 Muslim *unengaged* people groups of over 100,000 in population. The classic definition of an *unreached* people group has included the fact that there is no indigenous church in that people group capable of evangelizing itself; although there may be a small number of believers. The rather new term — *unen-gaged* — simply means that no known evangelism strategy whatsoever exists to reach that group, and there are no known believers in the group.

Yes, the task of Muslim evangelism continues to be daunting, but good news abounds! Person after person in the Africa venue shared marvelous stories of spiritually hungry Muslims who are becoming followers of Jesus.

In the Africa meetings I had fellowship time with three Muslim converts who lead large ministries that focus on reaching very resistant Muslim people groups with the gospel. *All three of these men came to the Lord as a result of a dream.*

Ahmad lives and works in an African country. He was in his twenties when the Lord appeared to him in a dream. He eventually accepted Christ as Lord and today his heart is completely given to evangelizing his own people. It has cost him dearly. To dissuade him, Muslim radicals slit the throat of his 27-year-old son, killing him instantly. "We never have our meetings in the same location," he said. "We stay on the move in order to call less attention to ourselves."

Hammad also lives and works in an African country, but traces his ancestral roots to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. His family lineage is *sharif* — meaning it can be



traced back to Muhammad, the founder of Islam. Hammad has been influential in seeing at least 10,000 Muslims come to the Lord. That's right — 10,000! And these followers of Jesus are from some of the most difficult and resistant places on the face of the earth.

Ibrahim lives and works in an area of the Indian sub-continent where the largest number of Muslim unreached people groups of over 100,000 in population reside. After 11 years the fruit is negligible, but Ibrahim is encouraged. In the face of incredible opposition, he and his wife have faithfully sown the seeds of the gospel — and see signs of a coming harvest.

Read the lead article of this issue and rejoice in how the Lord is using unusual *methodology* — dreams and visions — to reach into the lives of Muslims. To order a powerful DVD about five Muslims who came to the Lord via dreams — go to [www.morethandreams.org](http://www.morethandreams.org). It will bless and inspire you.





# Muslim World News

## Bangladesh

### CHRISTIAN CONVERT'S LIFE THREATENED

Muslim clerics and neighbors have ordered the father of a man who converted to Catholicism to remain confined to his house until retaliatory punishment can be exacted from the convert. "Are you not ashamed that your son became Christian?" the founder of a mosque here asked Ruhul Amin Khandaker, father of the 32-year-old convert. "Why did you not sacrifice your son like cattle before telling the news to us?" Khandaker has become a social outcast whose family members live under threat, in violation of Bangladesh's constitution and international human rights safeguards. His son, Rashidul Amin Khandaker, has applied for protection from Australian immigration officials as he believes police in 88 percent-Muslim Bangladesh would do nothing to protect him from Islamists threatening to kill him. — *Compass*

## Indonesia

### PASTOR FORCED TO STOP SERVICES IN HOME

Residents in North Jakarta have ordered the pastor of a small congregation to cease holding services in his home, despite permission issued by the Religious Affairs department. Village officials in South Rawa Badak, Koja district called a meeting with pastor Syaiful Hamzah and his wife Tiolida Sihotang, police officers, and representatives from the village mosque. At the meeting, officials urged Hamzah and his wife to sign a document agreeing to cease all worship services in their home, effectively rejecting permission granted by Religious Affairs officials. A sympathetic Muslim cleric informed Hamzah that "certain people" had made violent threats against him, and that he could not guarantee Hamzah's safety if he refused to sign the agreement. The couple eventually signed the document under duress. — *Compass*

## Algeria

### CHRISTIANS ACQUITTED IN BLASPHEMY CASE

A court in northwestern Algeria acquitted three Christians charged with blaspheming Islam and threatening a member of their congregation who reconverted to Islam. The defendants believe the judge's decision to acquit was due to spurious evidence. The acquittal also comes as part of a trend by the Algerian government bowing to negative international attention on such cases. Defendant Youssef Ourahmane said that as a result, a government crackdown against evangelical Christians has eased off in recent months. "We had noticed the last four or five months the government is trying to back down a little bit. I think the pressure on them has been strong, through condemnations from the U.S., France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Spain. The outside pressure has greatly embarrassed the government." — *Compass*



used the Bible to cast spells on people — and he refused to even touch it. The emir scolded him and told him it was just an ordinary book. “I am giving you this Bible for a special purpose,” he said. “After reading it, I want you to write a book that will reveal all the lies and contradictions contained in the Christian scriptures. The whole world will then know that the truth about God can be found only in the Qur’an. You will be paid a good monthly wage until the book is finished.”

Khalil went home to the capital, where his mother and grown siblings all lived together. He was repulsed by the “worldliness” and lack of obedience to Allah he saw in his family. In order to launch his book project, Khalil began reading the Bible. He saw that it had a very different focus from that of the Qur’an. He realized that the Islamic arguments leveled at the Bible were not valid. In fact, when leveling the same arguments at the Qur’an, it was the Qur’an that was dis-

credited. He was terribly confused. Which book was true? Khalil began his writing project, but it was not a refutation of the Bible! Instead, he titled his project “Is the Qur’an the Word of God?”

With doubts about the Qur’an now filling his mind, Khalil decided to contact a local Christian. When both his Bible and passport were stolen, he was even more confused. Was God punishing him for his doubts? Finally he cried out in prayer for God to reveal to him the truth, whatever it was.

That night Jesus appeared to him in a dream and said “Do you have any doubts? I am the one you seek. Read the gospel and you will know the truth.” Khalil protested that he had lost his Bible. Jesus replied “The gospel cannot be lost.” Khalil awoke and discovered his Bible in a nearby closet. Feeling he had been disrespectful to his mother, he immediately went to her room and asked for forgiveness. The next

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morning he sought out a local pastor who led him to full salvation. His life was changed forever.

Is this an isolated case? In a recently updated study prepared at Fuller Theological Seminary, a survey of 750 Muslims who converted to Christianity shows five predominant reasons they chose to follow Christ.

**The primary reason that influenced Muslims to convert was the lifestyle of Christians.** Former Muslims cited the love that Christians exhibited in their relationships with non-Christians and their treatment of women as equals.

**The power of God in answered prayers and healing.** Experiences of God's supernatural work – especially important to folk Muslims who have a characteristic concern for power and blessings – increased after their conversions, according to the survey. Often, dreams about Jesus were reported.

**Dissatisfaction with the type of Islam they had experienced.** Many expressed dissatisfaction with the Qur'an, emphasizing God's punishment over his

love. Others cited Islamic militancy and the failure of Islamic law to transform society.

**The spiritual truth in the Bible.** Muslims are generally taught that the Torah, Psalms, and the Gospels are from God, but that they became corrupted. These Christian converts said, however, that the truth of God found in scripture became compelling for them and key to their understanding of God's character.

**Biblical teachings about the love of God.** In the Qur'an, God's love is conditional, but God's love for all people was especially eye-opening for Muslims. These converts were moved by the love expressed through the life and teachings of Jesus. The next step for many Muslims was to become part of a fellowship of loving Christians.

In most conversions a combination of factors was present, but the study sought to discover what in the convert's mind was the main cause for conversion. The survey acknowledged that the most predominant factor in influencing Muslims to come to Christ was

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# More than Dreams

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the lifestyle of Christians, but it is highly significant that the second most influential factor was “Experiences of God’s supernatural work ... *and often dreams about Jesus.*”

Fuller’s survey reports that “More than one-third of the converts to Christianity in Turkey say they came to Christ because He appeared to them in a dream.”

What causes lie behind these supernatural events? Muslims seem to have supernatural encounters involving dreams and visions when:

1. Christians begin to intercede in prayer for Muslims, specifically that they would receive a revelation of Jesus and who He is.
2. Christians realize Muslims are unlikely to come to their churches, and as a result step out of their “comfort zone” and take the message of Jesus to them.
3. Muslims begin to question what they have been told about Christians, since they find their personal encounters with Christians to be more positive than negative.
4. Muslims experience a deep emotional or spiritual valley, a sickness, or a serious temptation, often resulting in periods of questioning their Islamic faith.

Certain characteristics or themes are fairly common in most Muslim pre-conversion dreams. For example, a scripture verse that often surfaces in pre-conversion dreams is “I am the way the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but by me,” (John 14:6).

Interestingly, Jesus never explains “the plan of salvation” in a dream or vision. Dream encounters by themselves do not produce followers of Christ. Almost without exception, the true “conversion” experience occurs when the Muslim seeker finds a Christian believer who explains the truth about Jesus, why He came, and what a seeker must do — repent and believe. Sometimes that information is found in written form or through electronic media.

A very credible ministry has collected and verified many amazing recollections of Muslim believers who



came to the Lord through a dream or vision. They have produced a DVD in docu-drama format telling the stories of five former Muslims who have come to Christ as a result of a dream or vision. Each story is in the national language of the convert, with English subtitles. The DVD contains the conversion stories of:

- Ali – a Turkish man in bondage to alcohol. While making the pilgrimage to Mecca, hoping to be freed of his addiction and be led in the way of a true Muslim, he found Christ instead. (In Turkish)
- Dini – an Indonesian teenager who became a Christian on a night that Muslims individualize their prayers to Allah. (In Indonesian)
- Mohammad – a herdsman in Nigeria who survived various attempts on his life by his father and eventually led his father to faith in Christ. (In Hausa)
- Khalil – a radical terrorist who was transformed when Jesus appeared to him and changed his heart. (In Arabic)
- Khosrow – a young Iranian man who was depressed and without hope until he met Jesus. Now joy fills his heart. (In Farsi)

The DVD can be obtained from the Web at [www.morethandreams.org](http://www.morethandreams.org). These powerful stories will hopefully encourage believers to partner with God for the redemption of more sons and daughters of Ishmael. Let us pray earnestly that Muslims throughout the world will receive supernatural dreams and visions that will lead them to the truth about Jesus Christ.





# JUMAA PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

**PRAYING FOR MUSLIMS  
AROUND THE WORLD!**



**Friday, January 2, 2009. Please pray**

**...for Yemeni Muslims.** There is a small but growing body of MBBs (Muslim Background Believers), and the country is in great need of prayer.

**...for an MBB family that has been forced to flee from Syria** and resettle in the United Kingdom. Pray for their protection, and that their testimony would be heard by Muslims wanting to know the truth about Jesus.

**...for the Muslim children of Bangladesh.** Pray that through Christian workers, MBBs, literature and radio, they will have the opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ. Bangladesh has 60 million school-age children out of a total population of 150 million people.

**Friday, January 9, 2009. Please pray**

**...for Christians in Iraq.** Pray for the many Iraqis following Jesus, even as they often face a threat of violence or death.

**...for Muslims in Angola to hear about Jesus.** Muslim extremists recently assaulted a Christian community, killing and injuring several believers.

**...that God will continue to raise up** expatriate Christian workers to reach Muslims across the Islamic world.

**Friday, January 16, 2009. Please pray**

**...for the Church in Kazakhstan.** Pastors are still being fined for leading unregistered churches. The fines are severe, often many times the minimum monthly wage.

**...for government leaders in Qatar.** They have recently given Christians permission for a second “church” to be built.

**...for MBBs in Iran.** The government crackdown on MBBs continues unabated.

**Friday, January 23, 2009. Please pray**

**...for political rulers across the Muslim world.** Pray that through divine intervention, windows of opportunity would open, allowing millions of Muslims to truly have an opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ.

**...for the Church in Azerbaijan.** Government harassment continues, and police raids on churches are frequent.

**...for Gaza,** where persecution of Christians is constant.

**Friday, January 30, 2009. Please pray**

**...for Muslims in Lebanon.** Pray that the Lord would continue to use MBBs to reach Muslims with the love of Christ.

**...for the gospel of Jesus Christ to be heard by Muslims in Chad.**

**...for a Jordanian MBB labeled an apostate by his own father.** His marriage has been annulled and he has left the country. If he returns to Jordan, he'll lose his wife and children.

**I URGE, THEN, FIRST OF ALL THAT REQUESTS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSION AND  
THANKSGIVING BE MADE FOR EVERYONE. – 1 TIMOTHY 2:1, NIV**

*Intercede 7*



# JUMAA PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

**PRAYING FOR MUSLIMS  
AROUND THE WORLD!**



**Friday, February 6, 2009. Please pray**

*...for an Indonesian pastor threatened with death* by Islamic radicals. His small congregation has been forced to stop meeting in his home.

*...for seven Christians arrested in Yemen* and charged with promoting Christianity and distributing Bibles.

*...for MBBs in Somalia and Kenya.* They face death and threats of violence as they testify about Jesus.

**Friday, February 13, 2009. Please pray**

*...for indigenous Christian pastors across the Muslim world.* Many toil under a heavy burden of danger, meager pay, and neglect. Pray that God would embolden these invaluable laborers.

*...for the Muslims of Chechnya to hear witness of Jesus Christ.* Pray that despite political turmoil, the gospel would be heard in this troubled land.

*...for Christian workers in France, Spain and Portugal.* Pray they would seize opportunities to witness to North African Muslims that might not otherwise hear about the love of Jesus.

**Friday, February 20, 2009. Please pray**

*...for radio and satellite broadcasts reaching Oman.* Pray for a genuine move of the Lord in this closed country.

*...for the millions of Muslims attending mosques today.* Pray the Lord would reveal his love to them in miraculous ways.

*...for the Sylhet district in Bangladesh.* Small congregations of MBBs are growing, and they are reaching out across the border into Myanmar.

**Friday, February 27, 2009. Please pray**

*...for increased Christian witness to Muslims* in the United States and Canada. May opportunities for the gospel of Jesus Christ to be heard by Muslims abound.

*...for Christians in Central Asia.* Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan all have pending legislation making regulations tighter on religious minorities.

*...for Turkish MBBs in Germany.* Despite living in Europe, they often face persecution and danger.