

## ***Shadow of the Crescent: Islam in America***

by a CMM affiliate

*We welcome Islam in America. It enriches our country with Islam's teachings of self-discipline, compassion, and commitment to family. It deepens America's respect for Muslims here at home and around the world.*

President Bill Clinton, Nov 22, 2000

*According to Muslim teachings, God first revealed His word in the Holy Qur'an to the prophet, Muhammad, during the month of Ramadan. That word has guided billions of people across the centuries, and those believers built a culture of*

*learning and literature and science. All the world continues to benefit from this faith and its achievements.*

President George W. Bush, Nov 19, 2001

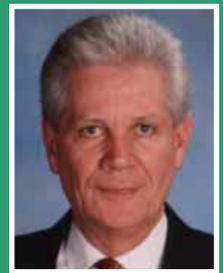
Issued from the White House, these public statements from sitting American presidents illustrate Islam's emergence as a major religion in America. Muslims in America are changing the cultural landscape at an ever-increasing pace. While much attention has been given to the Islamic population explosion in Europe, demo-



# 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**



**O**ur lead article is an excellent overview of the state of Islam in America. Please take the time to read and assimilate this important information. And, as a reminder, would you commit yourself to pray that more missionaries would respond to the call to work among the 6 million Muslims of America?

Yahiya Emerick is an American convert to Islam and a prominent author and apologist for Muslim issues. He says, “I was born and raised here. This is my land. I’ll raise my children here, Inshallah [God willing] and probably be buried here as well. I knew that by accepting Islam I was declaring that America needed to do so too. America, my home, would naturally become an Islamic country one day. There is no other way to think if you are a truly conscientious believer in Allah.”

Cathy Grossman, writing for *islamfortoday.com*, says, “Islam in America is wider, deeper and more diverse than ever in its history, and Muslims are poised to bring their faith, politics and culture into the mainstream of national life, according to a new, comprehensive study, *The Mosque in America: A National Portrait*.”

Based on a scientific sampling of U.S. mosques—from lavish new suburban complexes to storefront and university student centers, the study was conducted by a consortium of academic and Islamic groups, coordinated by Hartford Seminary Institute for Religious Research. Researchers have compared the new portrait of mosques with a similar study in 1994. Some key findings:

- Average mosque attendance at Friday prayers has nearly doubled, up 94% from 150 to 292.
- Most have an ethnic diversity unmatched in Christian and Jewish congregations, with 90% of mosques reporting a mix of South Asian, African-American, Arab and other groups born in the United States and abroad worshipping together.
- There are more than 6 million Muslims in America today, researchers calculate, based on 2 million people who are formally affiliated with mosques, up from 500,000.

Perhaps the most newsworthy finding of this study is the determination of Muslims to make mosques “the platform for full participation in American life,” says Ihsan Bagby, co-chairman of the research committee. “The Muslim community is maturing and coming into its own.”

“Mosques today are not only centers for spirituality, they are also bases for political and social mobilization, focal points for Muslim life in a way they may not have been in more tradition-

al Islamic societies,” says Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

“Muslims believe that by involvement with the larger society, they can do service to America. We have a local face now. We can begin to break down animosity and fear as people see this as a godly religion, a comprehensive way of life and a diverse community committed to equality,” Awad says.

“Look for new voices in schools, workplaces and voting booths. Increasingly, Muslims are going to be claiming a place in the public square. They still see themselves as an ‘out’ group rather than a ‘core’ group in American life right now, but that is going to change as they move into positions where they can assert their heritage,” says David Roozen of Hartford Seminary.

There is no doubt that Muslims are making a concerted effort to ‘mainstream’ in America—and succeeding. Note the following:

- A few weeks ago I opened the New York Times and found a two-page full color announcement of an endowment gift from Saudi Arabian Prince Waleed—\$20 million dollars to Georgetown University and \$20 million to Harvard University—to enact Muslim studies programs on each campus.
- A few years ago the government of Saudi Arabia donated \$25 million to the University of Arkansas for the same purpose. One requirement: Every religion course in the program must be taught by a Muslim.

Yes, Islam is growing in America. But this is not a time for hand-wringing or panic. Islam’s emergence will increasingly subject it to the glare of public scrutiny. Real seekers of truth will be persuaded to take a hard and realistic look at the claims of Islam. Muslims will need to deal more forthrightly with the “truth claims” of their religion. And there is no substitute for truth.

I speak in American churches on a regular basis and am noticing an encouraging trend. People in the pews are frequently sharing stories with me about witnessing to Muslims. They may not know all the intricacies of Islamic theology, but their attitude is “Jesus Christ cleansed me from sin and gave me something to live for. Let me share my testimony with you! And, yes, I am willing to invest some time in order to be your friend.”

Let the light of your life shine. Don’t be afraid to plant the seed of the Gospel in the heart of your Muslim friend. He or she has the deep ache of sin, just like every other creature.



# Muslim World News



## Pakistan

Nearly 80 percent of the more than 6,000 women and girls on trial in Pakistan are facing charges under the controversial *Hudood* Islamic laws that mainly deal with crimes of adultery and rape, said a human rights report published on Monday. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) report also noted an increase in the killings of women in the name of honor, *Daily Times* reported. Most such killings targeted women and girls who contracted marriages against their family's will. Human rights and civil-society organizations are demanding repeal of the *Hudood* laws that were introduced by late military dictator Zia-ul-Haq in 1979, to gain support of Muslim clerics for his rule. President General Pervez Musharraf, who seized power in a military coup in October 1999, has called on religious scholars to review the strict Islamic laws that are considered highly discriminatory against women. The report quoted the findings of the government's National Commission on Status of Women, which said that 50 percent of the inmates of a government-run shelter house for women, called "Darul Amin", were implicated under *Hudood* laws. The HRCP has accused policemen of violating the legal restrictions on keeping women overnight at police stations, saying that young girls are held in jails despite a ban on holding them along-

side adults. International organizations estimate that up to 90 percent of Pakistani women face domestic abuse. 538 women and girls were reported kidnapped between November 2004 and August 2005. The HRCP also found 311 female suicide cases and 299 attempted suicides reported in 2005.—*Kerala.com*

## Malaysia

Two significant legal developments have left Malaysians hotly debating religious rights and Islamic law (sharia). The first was the enactment of a new Islamic Family Law in December that made it easier for Muslim men to acquire up to four wives. Men no longer have to prove their financial capacity or ability to treat four wives equally. The law also made divorce far easier and gave husbands the power to freeze bank accounts of their former spouses. The second was the burial of a national hero, Moorthy Maniam, who once climbed Mt. Everest, as a converted Muslim. Moorthy was a lifelong Hindu. An Islamic (sharia) court has declared Moorthy a Muslim, thus ending any further jurisdiction of the civil courts over his case.—*Compass*

## Turkey

Fanned by local media and a Muslim mufti, an anti-missionary "witch-hunt" targeting Christians in Turkey's eastern city of Bingol left a Muslim

woman beaten in her tailor shop last month while police allowed her attacker to walk free. Guler Morsumbul has not yet found a lawyer willing to represent her against the man who attacked her six weeks ago, supposedly for "Christianizing" his daughter. A relative says many others have suffered from a growing climate of fear since reports of missionary activity appeared in a newspaper three years ago. "Whoever has a grudge against someone else, whoever wants to destroy someone's business, simply calls the other person a Christian," the relative said.—*Compass*

## Nigeria

The latest attack on the Rt. Reverend Ali Buba Lamido, 47, Anglican Bishop of Wusasa diocese in Kaduna state, began as the past year's previous three did: Armed men whom he believes were Muslim militants asked the guards at his home where he was, announcing they were going to kill him. This time, last March 10, a guest of one of his guards was shot dead. The guard and another worker were seriously injured. The four attacks on his house since April 2005 have involved no robbery. "It is difficult to believe that it was not religiously motivated, because some bishops have been attacked and one priest was murdered in a similar way," he said. "And the killers never stole anything from their houses."—*Compass*

graphics of Muslim-Americans often slide under the proverbial radar.



Consider the following:

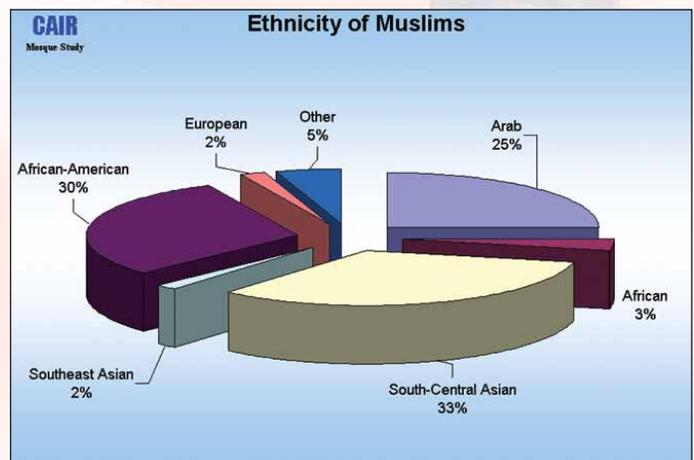
- In September of 2001, the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp commemorating Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting.
- Every year the White House sends out greeting cards on Eid al-Fitr (the feast marking Ramadan's end).
- A prayer room for Muslims has been designated in the U.S. Capitol building.
- The U.S. House of Representatives began its session on November 15, 2001, with the opening prayer led by a Muslim imam.
- The U.S. military chaplaincy program has a growing Muslim cadre.
- There are 1,400 Islamic centers in the United States.
- Annually, 100,000 Muslim immigrants legally arrive in America.
- Since 1975, Saudi Arabia has spent billions of dollars

to spread Islam inside the United States.

- 30,000 Muslim-American children attend private schools funded by Saudi Arabia.
- The Muslim Students' Association claims 600 chapters on university campuses across North America.
- After the first Gulf War, Kuwait designated 2.5 billion dollars for Islamic awareness in America.

The list above should not be dismissed as a medley of curiosities. It is not a mere recitation of facts or numbers; it is indicative and emblematic of the growing Muslim presence in America.

Obtaining a grasp of the precise Muslim demographic in the United States is problematic. Estimates vary, ranging from 5-8 million adherents. Religious affiliation is notoriously difficult to muster, and the U.S. census has not included religious affiliation questions for the past fifty years. Leaving the precise numbers for the experts to glean, there should be no question; Islamic growth in America is on the rise.



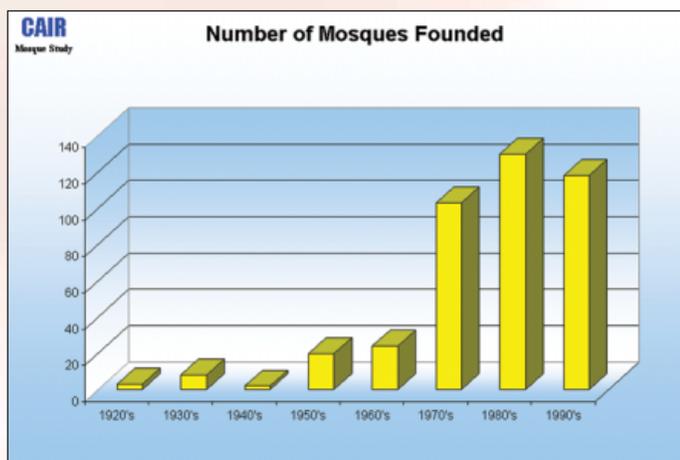
United Nations statistics demonstrate that between 1989-1998, the Muslim-American population grew by 25%. Therefore, even without hairline numbers, Islam ranks among the fastest growing religions in America. Within this growth, ethnicity of Muslim-Americans surprises many. Data gathered by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) shows that at 35%, South Asians make up the largest bloc of the Muslim-American population. African-Americans comprise 30% and Arab-Americans rank third at 25%.

# he Crescent

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Again, these numbers are not concrete due to the murky nature of compilation.

Considering an annual growth rate of 6% (as opposed to 0.9% for the total United States), a 2002 Cornell University study shows the Muslim population of North America (including Canada) poised to reach 16 million by 2014. This projection accounts for immigration, birth rate and conversion.



While the number of Muslims in America is seldom agreed upon, the number of mosques is not quite so contentious. There is some debate regarding inclusion—a hazy distinction between mosques and Islamic centers—but mosque data is far more reliable. A Hartford Seminary study from 2001, tallied 1,209 mosques in America. 62% of all U.S. mosques have been built since 1982. American mosque construction in the last thirty years correlates directly with the surge of funds spent by Saudi Arabia to spread Wahhabi Islam (Saudi Arabia's stringent brand of Islam) within America. Accordingly, the majority of U.S. mosques were at least partially built with funds provided by the

Saudi Arabian government. When coupled with private Saudi Arabian money, the percentage rises further.

Islam will not be a fleeting presence in America. Thirty years ago, nascent Islam was only a tremor on the demographic scale. Presently, four U.S. cities have over 100,000 Muslims—Los Angeles, New York, Detroit and Washington, DC. Ten years ago, only Los Angeles could make that claim.

Socioeconomic factors indicate a foundation for growth as well. Average Muslim-American households earn \$50,000 yearly. According to a 2002 study by the Lewis Mumford Center, that is \$2,000 less than non-Hispanic white households. The study also reported a very low poverty rate and more educational years for Muslim-Americans than whites or Asians. This is in stark contrast to burgeoning Islam in Europe. Socioeconomically, Muslims in Europe tend toward little integration, and a high rate of public assistance.

Ironically, America and Europe share a key factor in regard to Islam—opportunity; the usual insularity of the Islamic world is not an utter hindrance in the West. Simply stated, Western freedoms offer opportunities to expose Western Muslims to the Gospel. The Church must recognize the increasing Muslim population in America and seize the chance to offer a clear and true witness of Jesus Christ.



Country Focus...

# OMAN



**Population:** 2.6 million

**Religions:** Muslim 93%, Hindu 3%, Christian 2.5%, Buddhist 1%

**Official Language:** Arabic

**Peoples:** Arab 67%, South Asian 21%,  
Mahra 5%, Iranian 3%, Other 4%

Oman is a mountainous country located on the southeast coast of Arabia, dominating the entrance to the Persian Gulf. Oil revenues finance an absolute monarchy, although Oman is considered progressive relative to its neighbors. Since ousting his father in 1970, Sultan Qaboos Said has brought political stability and a reputation as a benevolent monarch. However, political parties are outlawed.

Islam is the state religion. Church activity for the expatriate community is permitted, but proselytising Muslims is forbidden. Samuel Zwemer, the famous missionary to Muslims, began his work in Oman in 1890.

Unreached People Group...

## OMANI

**Location:** Oman

**Population:** 1.3 million

**Religion:** Muslim 99.5%

**Language:** Arabic

The Omani Arabs make up 58% of Oman's total population. Over one and a half million other Omani Arabs live in other areas of the Middle East and East Africa. The Omani are set apart from other ethnic groups by their unique use of the Southeast Asian colloquial Arabic language and culture.

Most Omani live in farming villages growing dates, fruits and grains. Virtually all Omani Arabs are Muslims, segregated into three sects: Ibadi, Sunni and Shi'ite. The Omani are less than one percent Christian. Prayer is the key to effectively penetrating this unreached people group with the Gospel.



**Pray that...**

...God will encourage and protect the Omani Arab Christians.

...God will provide contacts and wisdom for any missions agencies working with the Omani Arabs.

...God will give Omani Christians opportunities to share Christ with their own people.



# JUMAA PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

***PRAYING FOR MUSLIMS  
AROUND THE WORLD!***



**Friday, July 7, 2006. Please pray**

...for new followers of Jesus in **Egypt**. Pray they will stand strong despite family pressure and danger.  
...for the people of **Chad**. The Darfur conflict in Sudan is threatening to spill over and bring chaos into Chad.  
...for **Pastor Pyotr Panafidin and family in Kazakhstan**. He has been detained and threatened with seizure of his home after refusing to pay a fine for leading an unregistered church.

**Friday, July 14, 2006. Please pray**

...for the country of **Lebanon**. Pray that God will open the hearts of Lebanon's leaders to the gospel.  
...for **Muslim background believers (MBBs) in Oman**. Pray that those who choose to follow Jesus would find fellowship and be discipled.  
...for **Nigeria**. Pray that despite the continuing violence, Muslims would receive witness of Jesus Christ and peace would settle on a troubled land.

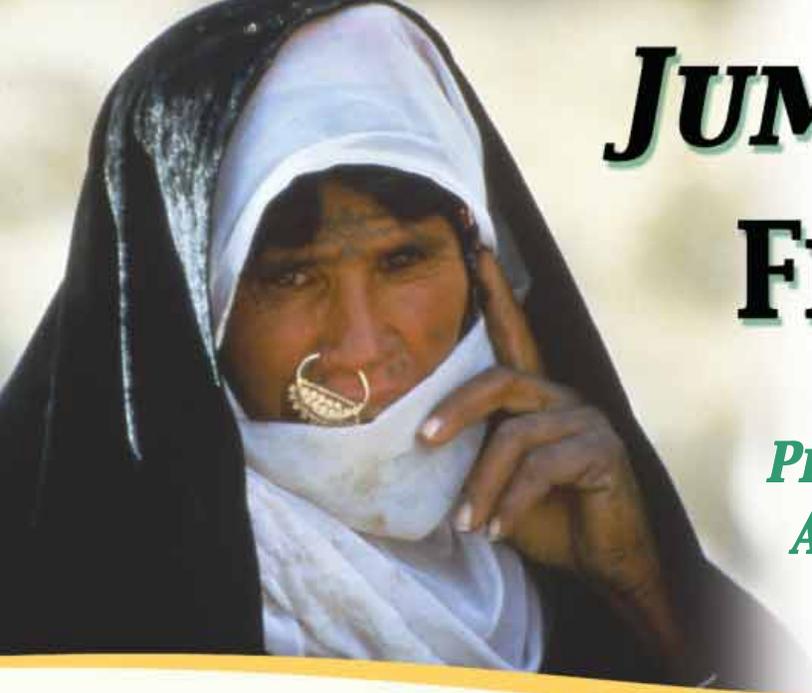
**Friday, July 21 2006. Please pray**

...for **Christians in Uzbekistan**. Pray for religious liberty despite deteriorating circumstances. Militant Islam is gaining in strength. Churches cannot register, witnessing is banned, and Bibles are being confiscated.  
...for **President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan**. Pray he would rule justly, pursuing political and economic reforms to free the Church and religious minorities.  
...for **Albania**. Pray that the Lord would continue to move in Albania, revealing His love to Muslims across the country.

**Friday, July 28, 2006. Please pray**

...for **MBBs in the Maldives**, whose presence continues to be denied by the authorities. Pray particularly that God would enable them to grow in their knowledge of Jesus Christ, in spite of the difficulties they face in obtaining Bibles.  
...for **Muslim militants in Thailand**. Pray for miracles in the hearts of fundamentalists in southern Thailand.  
...for **Shia and Sunni Muslims in Iraq**. Pray for the victims caught up in the fighting between these two branches of Islam.

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



# JUMAA PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

**PRAYING FOR MUSLIMS  
AROUND THE WORLD!**



Friday, July 4, 2006. Please pray

...that lay pastor **Hamid Pourmand** will be released from prison in Iran, and reunited with his wife and two sons.

...for Muslim refugees from **Western Sahara** living in southwest Algeria. Their homes and lives have been severely damaged by heavy rains and flooding.

...for the Muslims of America. Pray for those witnessing to approximately 6 million Muslim-Americans.

Friday, July 11, 2006. Please pray

...that vibrant churches will thrive in the Middle East.

...for three Christian women in Indonesia. **Rebekka Zakaria**, **Eti Pangesti** and **Ratna Bangun** were sentenced to three years in prison for allegedly trying to convert Muslim children.

...for a spiritual revival in Tunisia that will turn the hearts of Muslims.

Friday, July 18, 2006. Please pray

...that Algerian Muslims will recognize their spiritual hunger and turn to Christ. The Algerian government has approved a law that bans the promotion of any religion other than Islam.

...that Muslims in Saudi Arabia would receive witness of Jesus Christ. Even with stringent government regulation, pray that through expatriates, satellite or radio, the Gospel would shine despite the most improbable circumstances.

...for **Kural Bekjanov**, a nineteen year old man in Uzbekistan, currently imprisoned for his faith in Jesus Christ. Pray that God would protect him, strengthen his faith and comfort his family.

Friday, July 25, 2006. Please pray

...for the Uighur Muslims in northwest China. Pray for linguists currently translating the Old Testament into the Uighur language. The New Testament has already been completed.

...for MBBs in Malaysia as the right to convert from Islam to Christianity is being denied.

...for a Christian ministry in Turkmenistan that has opened several secret shelters for MBBs who have been disowned by their families or lost their jobs.