



Good news of great joy for everyone!

“O night divine, O night when Christ was born”



Many versions of “O Holy Night” beautifully describe this night as found in the Gospel (Luke 2:8-14). God sent Jesus, the Word, into this world as Savior of those who receive him. Jesus is the great sacrifice given by our Heavenly Father to forgive our sins and restore us back to His own fellowship in Heaven. The angel said,

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for

all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

You may be surprised that in Islam, there is also a special night known as ‘*Laylat Al Qadr*’ – the night of “power”. Traditionally it is believed to be one of the three last nights of the month of Ramadan. Many Muslims pray continuously during this night for mercy, forgiveness, and salvation. This practice is also called *Ihya*’ – (meaning revival, also means to spend the night in prayer). It is believed that the angel Gabriel came to Muhammad on such a night, beginning with the exhortation: “Read! In the Name of your Lord, Who has created (all that exists),” (Sura 96:1ff).

The Qur’an has a chapter with 5 verses titled ‘*Laylat al-Qadr*.’ A verse of this chapter states: “The angels and the Spirit descend therein, by the permission of their Lord, with all decrees” (Sura 97:4). Thus Muslims believe this is a special night, when God gives heed to their requests. In the light of such, Muhammad is mentioned in several traditions saying, “Whoever prays during the Night of Power with faith and hoping for its reward will have all his previous sins forgiven” (*Sahih Bukhari*, Volume 3, Book 31, Number 125). There is also a belief that during this night, God leaves his throne and comes to the nearest heaven to earth to listen to the pleadings of Muslims. They believe God either listens directly, or via the angel Gabriel, to the requests of Muslims concerning their fate.

In spite of this, a Muslim is never sure of mercy, forgiveness, and salvation in this life. In the case of Muslims, the belief is that starting from one special night, the words of the Qur’an were revealed to Muhammad and that one night every year, God comes down to the nearest heaven to hear the pleas of Muslims. In contrast, how marvelous it is to learn that some 600 years before Muhammad, the Living Word once and for all was revealed: Jesus Christ! God Himself, who is hidden (*al-Batin*), became revealed (*az-Zahir*) as grace (*fadi*) and mercy (*rahma*): not as words written, but as the living Word who walked among people and gave Himself for us. Thus, it is not a matter of fatalism but rather whoever believes is given the assurance of salvation!

As followers of Jesus, we see Muslims not as an enemy but as people who need ministry. Jesus loves them and died on the cross to save them. God has called us to reveal the truth about Islam to those seeking, and at the same time encourage the Church to love Muslims and be equipped to share with them the good news of assurance that only Jesus gives.

Your prayers, kindness, encouragement, and generosity have played a crucial role in opening hearts in the USA and around the Muslim world to know the Hope that is found in Christ Jesus alone!

We want to THANK YOU for joining us on this incredible faith journey! From the bottom of our heart, we thank you for your continued support. We pray that you will truly be blessed this Christmas season and in the year ahead!

Dear Friend, as we all celebrate the coming of our Savior, let's continuously pray for the Muslims to learn that God already sent the answer to their prayers 600 years before Muhammad. Please pray with us that as we embark on the new year, that all resources and hours be used to glorify the Lord, reaching people for Christ! 40% of the non-Christians in the world are Muslims. Let's not stop sharing the Good News!

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

– “O Holy Night”

Translated from French to English by John Sullivan Dwight

As we come to the close of another year ...

The Lord has done marvelous things!

- ❖ We are thankful for your unceasing prayer support.
- ❖ This year through our websites, Christian friends, and related prayerful discussions on Islam and Christianity, 11 Muslims came out of Islam and into the family of Jesus Christ!
- ❖ Because of your kindness and generosity, the message of the love of Christ is shared around the world! We saw a large distribution of the 13 evangelistic leaflets and several books we have, including “Why follow Jesus” throughout the world, especially in parts of Africa where Muslim fundamentalists are trying their best to attract Christians to Islam.
- ❖ Steven responded every month to several hundred visitors to our websites and queries sent to us.
- ❖ We are thankful to God and to the donor for providing us with a fairly reliable vehicle for long distance travel! We can easily load it with our materials for seminars and other speaking engagements.
- ❖ We held 10 seminars from 2 to 6 hours each on “Islam and the Biblical Approach to Muslims” at churches and fellowships. Steven also taught several series on World Religions, as well as Old and New Testament Surveys on why Jesus is important to follow and share!
- ❖ Steven's book *Jesus or Muhammad: A Question of Assurance* (315 pages) was printed and 1500 copies were sent to Muslim contacts around the world, as well as to those who have embraced Jesus as Savior from Islam backgrounds. We thank God for the supporters who helped us in this project! We pray God blesses them abundantly!
- ❖ Steven's previous book *The Bible and the Qur'an: A Question of Integrity* (247 pages) was reprinted. This book has become part of the reading assignment for students at several Bible colleges in the study of Islam and Christian outreach around the world.
- ❖ God brought a couple, Samuel and DeLynn Mora, our way. While Sam designed the covers of the two books, DeLynn helped with the editing. They also translated the 13 evangelistic leaflets into Spanish. We hope to have the funds available to print them soon! Please pray for this. Muslim missionaries try their best to attract Spanish communities. These leaflets will be a great help to Spanish-speaking Christians in sharing Jesus with Muslims.
- ❖ We are grateful to the Lord for the recent addition to the team of a new administrator who has the gift of organization and has been a great blessing in the ministry and our lives!

Your prayers and your giving enable us to steward the opportunities God has given us, from sharing Jesus Christ with Muslims to training and equipping the body of Christ. This is what *Jesus to Muslims* is about: Sharing the beauty and splendor of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its full credibility and helping seekers find salvation in Jesus. We need your help! As siblings in Christ, together we fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Jesus to Muslims: Financial Aspects

This coming year, 2014, marks the 8th anniversary of its founding of *Jesus to Muslims* ministry. This ministry relies solely on the generosity of our donors, to continue our daily operations, to expand our outreach, to do seminars to equip Christians and to research and publish material to reach truth seekers.

We thank you and praise God for your continuous support and being steadfast with us in *your calling* as we fulfill *our calling* in reaching Muslims and equipping Christians.

Funds in total received:

October 2013: \$9,341

November 2013: \$6,390

Compared to last year at this time, we are behind by \$6,500 in ministry funds.

If you are mailing your gift, please use the envelope provided. For online giving go to: www.JesusToMuslims.org and click on 'Support'.