

“...EMPOWERING PASTORS & LEADERS OF IMMIGRANT CHURCHES REACHING THE WORLD”

NEW ROOTS MINISTRY

IGNORANCE, A GOOD THING?

Somewhat ignorant, interested, well-grounded. That is a description I write of myself at this stage in my life. Would others agree, and what do they think of that? More importantly, would my God affirm that?

Here are a few examples: I was emailed a paper titled, “*Islam, a Religion of Peace?*” There was a list of twelve verses of the Quran which encouraged violence against infidels. I suppose I am considered an infidel as a non-Muslim, and as a Christian. I visited Abdul, a Somalian merchant in Sioux Falls who is orthodox Muslim. Abdul was happy to visit with me about this. He said those twelve verses, like many others, were written by Muhammad—the founder of Islam—for his day, 600AD, when the Muslims were having violent conflicts with Christians in the Middle East. Abdul explained that only a tiny minority of Muslims, including radical terrorist groups, read those passages of the Quran literally for today. Our visit was a few days after a bomb

exploded in Mogadishu, the capital city of Somalia, killing hundreds of Somalians. Abdul said those radical groups would also view him as an infidel.

As we are both serious

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about our faiths, as we both believe in eternity, though with different understandings, Abdul and I have discussed that because we care about each other as friends, naturally we both hope the other becomes enlightened to what we believe is Truth. We agree that we would not be good friends of each other if we did not care about that. What is my point in writing about Abdul? So people like me do not think all →

WORSHIP EVENT---All Nations

City Church (ANCC)---on

Sunday, February 25 at 6PM!

- **Location is still to be announced.**
- **This will likely be ANCC's last event, so please join us for a great finish!**

Timothy Leadership Training

(www.tlti.org) is a feasible,

thorough, and practical

pastor/leader training

program. At New Roots

Ministry, **we continually offer**

TLT classes during both day

and evening hours. Please

contact us (376-6330) if you

have any questions.

orthodox Muslims want to harm us.

Asmira is a Sudanese merchant in Sioux Falls and she is also Muslim. Different from Abdul, Asmira is quite ignorant of her faith, and especially of the Quran. Many, like her, do not read it. The practice of her faith includes praying toward Mecca a few times a day, and fasting the month of Ramadan. Asmira tries to convince me that her understanding of Jesus is similar to my understanding. Well, not according to the Quran. The Quran mentions



Jesus often, as a great man and

prophet, but not as the Great Prophet—Muhammad, nor as God the Son, the Savior. Asmira and I have friendly conversations over coffee. Asmira also has the understanding, like many people, that all faiths lead to the same result—to heaven and God. What is my point in writing about Asmira? So people do not think all Muslims are against discussions about faith.

Hassan, originally of Iraq, works at John Morrell/Smithfield. He is Muslim, but not serious about his faith. Recently, he approached me, concerned about a dream he had about Jesus. Dreams about Jesus are quite common for Muslims, as this link describes:

www.catholic.org/news/international/middle_east/story.php?id=72675. What is my point in writing about Hassan? So we

remember that all conversions, including ours, happen by the Holy Spirit, “who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). Leaving Islam is difficult, so God sometimes gives vivid dreams.

This last example is to show you how ignorant I am! Until last year, I never knew that the country of Liberia began in the 19th century as a settlement for freed black slaves sent back to Africa. Liberia got its name as a place of “liberty”—freedom. What is my point in writing about Liberia? So you know that I am actually not as smart as you might think I am.

**Thanks for learning with me.
God bless your journey!**

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