

Some facts, teachings and observations of Islam:

- Muhammad, the founder, was born in 560AD in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. At 50, he had his first revelation from Allah. In 622AD, he fled to Median. In 630AD, he conquered Mecca.
- The Qur'an is the Word of God revealed by the Angel Gabriel, through Muhammad.
- The Hadith are collected recitations of Muhammad, second only to the Qur'an in authority. They are to be read with the Qur'an. Collected 300 years after Muhammad's death.
- The Tawrat (Book of Moses), the Zabur (Book of David), and the Injeel (Book of Jesus/New Testament) are considered holy books, but their level of authority is greatly reduced as they are corrupted/changed from their originals. The Qur'an replaces the Bible, and the Qur'an will never be changed because God protects his Word.
 - A rebuttal---"God forbid that he would allow his word (Tawrat/Zabur/Injeel) to be corrupted!" That would imply humans are stronger than God.
- Many of the prophets in the Qur'an and the Bible are the same, though details about them are quite different---Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Lot, Joseph, Job, Moses, David, Solomon, Jonah, Mary, Zechariah (father of John the Baptist), John the Baptist, JESUS
- Allah means God in Arabic. Arabic Christians often refer to God as Allah.
- There are 5 pillars of Islam:
 - Creed: "I testify that there is no god except Allah, and I testify that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah." Reciting this creed in the presence of a Muslim makes you a Muslim.
 - Praying 5 times/day. It is a ritual rather than a conversation with God.
 - Fasting from sun-up to sun-down during the month of Ramadan.
 - Almsgiving to those in need (2.5% for Sunni; 5% for Shi'ite)
 - Pilgrimage (Al-Hajj) to Mecca and Medina that must be made by every able Muslim at least once in a lifetime. During the Hajj, a pilgrim will circle the Ka'aba seven times and touch its black stone. Thanks for asking and for your prayers. Julie had it pretty rough but is doing quite a bit better. Yesterday was rough for me because of high fever and achy ness. Fever broke through the night and I am doing better today. Lost my smell yesterday. So we are making it through.
- Muslim beliefs about Jesus Christ:
 - Born of the virgin Mary, having been conceived by the power of God.
 - They do not think He is the Son of God as God could not have a son.
 - Was the only pure and sinless person.
 - He is considered the Word of God (Kalimat Allah)
 - He did miracles like raising the dead and healing the sick.
 - He will be the Intercessor on Judgment Day.
 - He is coming back to earth.
 - He was not crucified on a cross because, logically, Allah would not allow such a good prophet to be killed in such a way.
- Some issues that Muslims have with Christians and with Christian doctrines:
 - Muslims sometimes feel that they take responsibility for their sins while Christians just stick them to Jesus.
 - Muslims sometimes believe that Christians are polytheists who worship three or more gods---God, Jesus, Mary, Holy Spirit
 - A rebuttal---Christians believe in a complex One, while Muslims believe in a simple One.