



# Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 11

November 2005

## From the Pastor's Desk

### Is Islam a Religion of Peace?

Is naiveties a Christian virtue? I had one local pastor tell me that I should only get my information from Imams (Muslim Clerics). The question is should we not examine the source documents and see if it is so. "Islam is a religion of peace" seems to be the mantra that is continues to circulate in the media and with our Government officials. The Question is, is it true? Is Islam a religion of peace? The more I have studied Islam the more that I am convinced that the answer to the question is, no it is not. That does not mean there are not peaceful Muslims but the Quran calls these Muslims hypocrites because they will not fight in the Jihad.

If you compare Jesus, who told us to:

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"love our enemies.", "Do good to those who persecute us", "Turn the other cheek", "Forgive those who wrong us", and you study the sayings of Muhammad you will come to the conclusion that Jesus and Muhammad are exactly the opposite. When you come down to it Christianity (especially Protestantism) is responsible for most of the great institutions that we enjoy in the west and which are only in the east because of compassion ministries of Christianity. Christianity is responsible for institution such as: Hospitals, Universities and Education, Abolition of slavery, Freedom of religion, Democracy, Compassion for the poor, Orphanages, Child labor laws, and so on and so on. Even though many "Christians" have not always lived up to what Christ called us to be, for the most part many have and have made the world a better place.

What did Muhammad teach his followers? "*Jihad is holy fighting in Allah's Cause with full force of numbers and weaponry. It is given the*

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St Paul's Bible Church

# *Missionary Update*

November, 2005 Prayer Update

Dear Friends at St. Paul's.

My two weeks in the States with my mother were wonderful. As we talked about myriads of things, I wrote notes so that I could share my mother's life with my children and grandchildren. Because we've lived so many years overseas, my children had few opportunities to know Grandma Garcia. The time was, I consider, a gift from the Lord. Thank you for praying for my trip which was uneventful, my back which had help from pain meds, my time with family which would have been perfect had Wes been able to go too, and for my mother who is holding her own right now. Many thanks. Jean

The big news this month is the Xavante New Testament dedication and beginning of its distribution. Scheduled for the November 12-13 weekend, the distribution will give thousands of Xavantes the opportunity to read God's Word in their own language. Imagine reading God's Words for the first time in your own language! A large number of Xavantes are already believers in the Lord Jesus. May they read the Word daily and apply it to their lives.

Thanks for praying.

Yours,

Jean and Wes Bell

Wycliffe Bible Translators-Brazil

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Dear Praying friends,

Thank you for carrying us through the past busy month.

What has happened?

We have gotten through the initial weeks of orientation and our CAT (Certificate students) will be starting their Theological studies this coming week ( after their intensive English courses).

We have had our first Open House with about 30 students and many home made pizza rolls consumed. It was a fun evening of getting to know the students.

We have welcomed two young people (one from Finland and one from Odessa Ukraine) who are here volunteering for a few months. They are helping out where needed.

Our school has had several conferences for which Debby has helped with tea times more than she wishes to count. :)

Last but not least, Greg was able to finish a 20 plus page article

for a journal. This article is in relation with his PHD work as well.

Our children have finished their Half Term and are now having a week off. Their teachers are happy enough with their progress. Selina has some issues that we need to check into regarding her reading and writing.

Nic and Debby have had the flu. Nic came away with an ear infection and Debby, after being in bed for nearly a week, is still battling bronchitis. (You should have seen Greg as Mr. Mom, in action!!! He made the best home made chicken soup ever)

We were also able to invite the family of which Selina lead their daughter to the Lord last year, to church. The mom and kids came. However it was a day that she found out that one of the girls in school who was battling Leukemia had gone into a coma. The girl has since died and it has had a great impact on our children's school.

PLEASE PRAY:

- 1) For the students as they start their studies in a language that is not their own.
- 2) For Greg's continued work on his PHD.
- 3) For the voluntaries who are here to help lighten the load.
- 4) For our children in their education as well as their continued spiritual growth.
- 5) For our health. Praise God for good Dr. and medicines. Pray for Greg and Selina not to get the flu also.
- 6) Our upcoming JAM (Just Awesome Music) session coming up this week end.
- 7) For continued work with the children at church in Sunday School (Greg) and the WOW program (Debby)
- 8) For our involvement with the parents and children at Riverside School.

Thank you for blessing us through your love and prayers. We need them and know that without them we would not be able to survive here.

Blessings upon you in return.

Debby for the Nichols family

Greater Europe Mission Czech Republic

*Missionary Update (continued from Page 2)*

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Graham and Alexis Barker      October 2005 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

What a tragic time for so many people as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and terrorist bombings have destroyed or altered their lives forever. We have been horrified at the extent of the damage that has been wreaked upon the peoples of many nations this past month. We join with our international friends and pray that our God will comfort and give hope to the millions who have been affected. Members of the YFC community have been active from the Gulf States in the USA to the highlands of Pakistan providing aid and support to thousands.

Our own news is more encouraging as Kit and Robyn approach the birth of their first child at the end of November. All are well as they prepare for the event.

Kit has started his doctoral program at the local Baptist Theological College and will now be coping with two major projects in the New Year!

Amy is in the midst of her final exams for her law degree and Luke is being unusually quiet. Actually he has been elected project manager for the Wakisa Project in Uganda, and will be very busy, very soon. The Wakisa Project is the follow-up to our two trips to Kampala. Luke and his boss Dick are designing a residential centre where Vivian Kityo can care for up to twenty pregnant girls at a time, providing ante and post-natal care as well as life skills and commercial training. This is another huge, but essential undertaking. On my last visit the First Lady of Ugandan told me she had personal contact with over a hundred needy girls at that time and why hadn't I already built the facility? No pressure!

Alexis is having some good days and her specialist is very pleased with her progress. We have all had bad flu-like infections that hung around for weeks but we are doing well at present. Alexis is still very tired but in good spirits.

Two weeks ago I presented at a Sydney University on the topic of a Christian psychologist's view of the supernatural as seen in exorcism (a hot topic here after a very controversial TV screening). I was to "dialogue" with a secular psychologist who would present his views. On the day he failed to show so I was asked to present both sides. I really enjoyed the debate!

Actually the question time was the best part of the event. All the feedback was positive and I believe many students were

challenged to consider the possibility of a more open universe where the natural world is but a subset of reality. Praise God!

Thank You for being a part of our international support family.

God Bless you.

The Barkers

Youth for Christ -Australia

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Dear Friends at St. Paul's:

I just experienced a shock. I noticed that it has been an incredible four months since I have written the loving people who send us offering to help us pay for the expenses of living. I can hardly believe it myself, and I ask your forgiveness for this neglect. It is a poor excuse to say that we have been so busy making the necessary adjustments to living in Michigan that I neglected to write you. Unfortunately, it is true, and this "poor excuse" is the only one I have. Please forgive me.

On June 21st we moved into Unit 2051 in the East Wing of the Breton Terrace. The wing had just been finished and opened up for new residents. Everything in the apartment was new: It is a single bedroom apartment, and is much nicer than anything we thought we would ever live in. It is small, however, and we are still trying to fit a lifetime of accumulations into the small space.

After two months we were somewhat settled, and I volunteered for work at the Puritan Reformed Seminary, keyboarding a Bible index in the library. While I find typing numbers all day somewhat dull (I infinitely prefer words), it is a project that will be useful not only to the seminary student of today, but to all Bible students who consult it. Working on it only one day a week makes it slow going.

The second project for which I volunteered is the Holland Home Hospice. I feel strongly drawn to my contemporaries who are ending their days in this service. Dying is a very lonely walk, and I would like to come alongside them to do what little I can to help them.

Harold is helping a Dutch linguist who has made an analysis of the Maxakali language. He is very dependent on Harold to validate his work because he personally does not know the Maxakali language. Harold enjoys this work and finds it absorbing.

Our son David lives in Texas, Jim lives in Flint, MI, and

## ***From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)***

*utmost importance in Islam and is one of its pillars. By Jihad, Islam is established, Allah's Word is made superior (which means only Allah has the right to be worshiped), and Islam is propagated. By abandoning Jihad, Islam is destroyed and Muslims fall into an inferior position; their honor is lost, their lands are stolen, their rule and authority vanish. Jihad is an obligatory duty in Islam on every Muslim. He who tries to escape from this duty, dies with one of the qualities of a hypocrite." Surah 2:190 and "When you clash with the unbelieving Infidels in battle (fighting Jihad in Allah's Cause), smite their necks until you overpower them, killing and wounding many of them. At length, when you have thoroughly subdued them, bind them firmly, making (them) captives. Thereafter either generosity or ransom (them based upon what benefits Islam) until the war lays down its burdens. Thus are you commanded by Allah to continue carrying out Jihad against the unbelieving infidels until they submit to Islam." Surah 47:4*

This is really just a sampling of what Muhammad taught his followers and Practiced (Muhammad fought in over 66 battles during his lifetime). If you would like to read more on source materials of Islam read the book Prophet of Doom at [www.prophetofdoom.net](http://www.prophetofdoom.net). This book examines not only the Koran but the Hadiths which were written by followers of Muhammad and are just as authoritative as the Koran. Muhammad's followers have been at war with the west since its inception. The Crusades were a misguided attempt by the Catholic Church to take back the land of Palestine which had been conquered by the Muslims from the Byzantine Empire and is certainly one of the black marks on Christian history. But the truth of the matter is that Muslims had a 600 year holy war against the west, when the Crusades were called. I am not justifying the Crusades but the popular notion today is that the west is responsible for the Jihad because of the Crusades which is just not true. Islam had made many incursions into the west prior to the Crusades and was threatening the Eastern Roman Empire in

Constantinople. The Crusades were called to make Jerusalem safe for Christian pilgrims, misguided yes, but Christian, no.

**How should we respond to Islam and Muslims who are moving in all around us?**

1. Don't be naive about Islam. It is not a path to God, but one of Satan's worst and most destructive deceptions. Christ and Muhammad said the opposite. Muhammad claimed to speak for God, Jesus claimed to be God. Muhammad gave a system of works to please God, Jesus' work satisfies God and by faith makes us right with God. The two can not be both correct. As the French philosopher Renan said, "Muslims are the first victim of Islam", therefore we must be compassionate by those deceived by a repressive and evil religion.
  2. We should seek to love and befriend them. Most Muslims are wonderful and hospitable people who would love to have you as their friend. The good news is that most Muslims do not follow what the Koran teaches and love to live peaceful lives and go about their business.
  3. We are love and forgive those who wrong us, whether Muslim or non-Muslim. Christ calls us to a life of peace and forgiveness.
  4. We are to reach them with the gospel which is God's true message of peace and reconciliation, by friendships evangelism.
  5. We will have to be "ready to give an answer to every one who asks us for the reason for the hope that you have". We will have to prepare our selves with knowledge of what Muslims believe and know our Bibles so that we can share Christ. There are some great resources on the web such as: Answering Islam ([www.answering-islam.org](http://www.answering-islam.org)), or faith freedom ([www.faithfreedom.org](http://www.faithfreedom.org)). Do some reading than you will be better prepared to answer our Muslim neighbors.
  6. My belief is that we should not expect peace. Jesus warned us that there would be "wars and rumors of wars". If you look at the majority of wars around the world they involve Islam. I believe the United Nations will never
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### *From the Pastor's Desk (cont. from page 3)*

bring peace to the world just as the League of Nations was powerless to stop WW-2. Don't be naive.

7. Fix your hope on the promise that someday Christ will come back and will rule the nations, then there will be peace. Watch out for those who say peace and safety and "destruction will come on them suddenly as labor pains upon a pregnant women" (Read Matthew 24 for a perspective on this).

Blessings Pastor Wenner

## *ACF Events*

We had a great time at the October Harvest Dinner. There was plenty of delicious food and wonderful fellowship. Pete Oakley inspired everyone to prepare ourselves for the Lord's Harvest and then everyone enjoyed a good laugh watching a classic "I Love Lucy" episode, as Lucy prepared herself for a movie role by learning about stomping grapes.

We'll be taking off the month of November as we prepare for the Holiday season. Be sure to mark your calendar for the Annual Progressive Dinner on Saturday, December 17th. We'll have full details later, but be assured that Eleanor Hollander and Betsy Hale have already decided on the theme for the appetizer course.

The Adult Christian Fellowship Committee

## *Primary Class*

### *Bible Verses*

November 6 and 13: "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

November 20 and 27: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

### *Missionary Update (continued from page 4)*

Philip lives in California. Our daughter and her family are with the US Embassy in Vienna, Austria, and she is beginning to plan a celebration of our fiftieth wedding anniversary next summer. We have seen each of our children this year, but we have not all met together at the same time for quite a few years. We would like to do this next year. We will not be able to meet on the anniversary date (which is June 9) but hope to celebrate it in August instead.

May God richly bless you and yours.

In His Grace

Harold and Fran Popovich

Wycliffe Bible Translators - Retired

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Dear Pastor Wenner & Missions Committee

Shana Tovah! Chatimah Tovah! Happy (Jewish) New year and May your Name be Inscribed in the Book of Life! (You already are a s a believer in Messiah Yeshua)

On September 3rd we had the privilege of immersing 5 Jewish people in Lake Michigan. Four were teen boys who had become believers in the last few years. One man, Harold, became a believer at our first service in our new building. Harold is 79 years old and was brought to us from God. A believing friend of his called Kirk and put them in touch. Harold lives an hour away but he eagerly came to our first service in the new building. It was at that service that he saw that one can believe in Yeshua and still be Jewish. Kirk asked him if he wanted to make a commitment to Yeshua and he did. We don't see Harold often because of the distance, but he is such an encouragement to us when we do see him.

Pray for all five of these men that they would stay on the right path and grow in their faith in God.

Praise God because the Chavurah was able to purchase a real kosher Torah Scroll which we will begin to use on Rosh Hashanah. A torah is an essential item in authenticating our witness within the Jewish community.

Forward for the Messiah,

Kirk & Carla Gliebe

Devar Emet Messianic Jewish Outreach - Skokie, IL

# November 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bible Study 7PM Kid's Club 7PM	3	4 Youth Group at Kreider's	5 Christian Ed Committee 9:30AM
6 Worship service 10AM Sunday School	7 Jessica Beal Bday Kelly Wenner Bday	8	9 Bible Study 7PM Kid's Club 7PM	10	11	12
13 Worship service 10AM Williams Family Baby Shower Sunday School Prayer & Praise 6PM	14 Margie Harkness Bday	15 Elders & Trustees 7PM Bea Keyser Bday	16 Bible Study 7PM Kid's Club 7PM	17	18	19
20 Worship service 10AM Sunday School Annual Meeting	21	22 Brian Blake-Collins Bday	23 Bible Study 7PM Kid's Club 7PM Benjamin Williams Bday	24	25	26
27 Worship service 10AM Sunday School	28	29	30 Bible Study 7PM Kid's Club 7PM			