



**REACHING MUSLIMS**  
*Making Disciples of the  
Cross from All Nations*

**POBLO-TX NEWSLETTER**

*Saved By Grace*

**PEOPLE OF THE BOOK LUTHERAN OUTREACH**

## A Muslim coming to Faith

In March of 2009, Amine came to our Arabic Church of All Nations in Dallas and he wanted to speak to me privately. He said, "I need to know the differences between Muslims and Christians. Is it true that you Christians worship three gods?" My response was, "No, not at all. Christians worship only one God but God has three Persons..." The meeting lasted over one and a half hours. I explained to him about the Trinity, the incarnation of Christ, redemption, and justification by faith. This was the beginning of a series of private meetings.

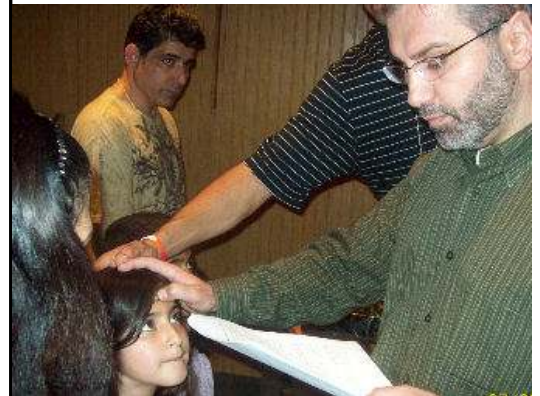
Amine grew up in a very conservative and religious Muslim family. His mother, who was Christian, was forced to become Muslim. His grandfather was the Grand Mufti of Iraq (Mufti is the one who legislates for Muslims).

As a youth Amine had a Christian friend. One day he and his Muslim friends started to curse and verbally abuse Christians, Jesus, and His cross. His Christian friend told him, "I forgive you. Our Bible and our Lord teach us not to vindicate but to forgive."

This story impacted Amine's life and caused him to desire to know more about Christianity and the Bible. Several years passed before he would come to the saving knowledge of the Savior and before he would profess Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

In May 2009, Amine showed up at the church distressed; his father had had a heart attack. His family knew about his interest in Christianity and his fellowship with us. Because of his interest in Christianity, the family was

blaming Amine for his father's heart attack. I opened the Bible with him and started to counsel him from the Word of God. We read Mark 10: 29 where Jesus said, "I tell you the truth... no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel..." We continued with John 16: 1-3 in which Jesus said, "All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me." The Holy Spirit, through the Word of God, comforted and strengthened him.



That same day we were having the baptism of a former Muslim's brother and his brother's daughter. I asked him if he wanted to join them, and he said, "Yes!" That same day Amine was baptized.

For the next month I continued to disciple Amine. A significant help in the discipling process was the red book, "Life with God",

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### How can you help POBLO-TX Plant new churches?

1. Prayers- without your prayers our mission would fail.
2. Support- without your support there would be no mission: -School Chapel & Sunday School Offerings, -Thrivent Matching Funds, -Adding POBLO-TX to your Yearly Mission Budget
3. Invite Pastor Karim Baidaoui to your church to learn about Islam and Christianity
4. Volunteer- without volunteers there would be no one to reach out.
5. Ways to volunteer - help organize ESL Classes; Organize an Emergency Food Drive; Organize and help pick up Furniture Donations.
6. Tom Thumb Reward Program
7. Adopt a Refugee Family in Christ Program



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## **A Muslim Coming to Faith (continued from page 1)**

which I translated from English into Arabic.

After that Amine disappeared. I called him several times but he rarely answered. When he would answer, he created excuses for not coming to church. We continued to pray for him every Sunday.

Just last month Jesus appeared to Amine showing him that he needs to go back to church and be in fellowship with believers. He immediately came and told all of us his story and how the Gospel had worked in his life.

The reason for Amine's withdrawal from church was his family's response to his conversion and professing Jesus as Lord and Savior. His family rejected him and threatened to kill him if he ever returned to Iraq. He had been overwhelmed by the reaction and Satan had taken the opportunity to create doubts in his mind.

Recently the Holy Spirit brought Amine to share with the Church yet another vision where Jesus came to him in his dream. It continues to give him much comfort to face the many persecutions by his family and friends in the Muslim community. Amine shared his dream like this: I was walking among the dead in a cemetery, and I asked Jesus, "Who are these people laying here?" Jesus replied, "These are those who knew me by name, but did not confess me as their Lord and Savior." (Ezekiel 37:1-3) Then Jesus took me by the hand into a door that led me to heaven and one of my Muslim friends was not there. So I asked Jesus, "Why isn't he here?" Jesus said, "Because he did not know me."

Please pray for Amine. He is under great spiritual attack. The enemy is waging war against him to steal, kill and destroy his faith. In addition to being threatened by his family in Iraq, he is also being persecuted and pursued by his Muslim friends where he now lives and works.

**Pastor Abjar Bahkou, Arabic Church of All Nations**

Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Ezek 37:13-14



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## **Lutheran Student Center of All Nations at UTA**



POBLO-TX and Grace Lutheran Church in Arlington are working together to plant a Church of All Nations at LSC/UTA. Pastor Karim started the ground work for this mission plant by leading a Bible study last year with the international students from Muslim backgrounds. UTA has a multitude of international students estimating 1600 from Pakistan-India alone. Please pray that the shepherd of All Nations will bring to completion what He has started.

*After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. Rev 7:9*

# Adventures from UTA: *Lunch with a Buddhist, a Hindu, and Sikh*

**A**s the Assistant Director of the Lutheran Student Center, I have an amazing job of ministering to international and American students alike at UTA. Sometimes I never know what to expect. This was one of those times.

When a Hindu student invited me to lunch, I had no idea I was about to have lunch with not just a Hindu, but a Thailand Buddhist and a Sikh. When God lets it rain, it pours witnessing opportunities.

On the half hour or so drive to the most excellent Indian buffet, small talk ensued—everything from the recent blockbuster *Avatar* to their research department. It's a great, slow way to begin friendships. Over a variety of spicy curries, colorful chicken, and scrumptious deserts, conversation slowly turned to religion.

Not knowing much about the Sikh religion, I asked questions. I learned that the length of his hair and beard were tied directly to his religion, an offshoot of Hinduism that began as a cult fighting against the Morgul oppressors in India. In fact, most of the religion seemed grounded in a history of violence. So, what was this American going to say?

Turns out, all I had to do was ask more questions. I learned that Sikhs carry 5 specific items on their person, each are meant to anchor them in an identity. From bangles to daggers to turbans, each represent something significant. For example, daggers are meant to tie them to the idea of fighting oppressors. Turbans are a sign of royalty, and like long hair and beards, help distinguish fellow Sikh believers in a crowd. Some Sikhs trim their beards.

God so blessed the conversation, that on the way home, they asked me about my religion. I was delighted to share with them Jesus. First, I had to explain that when many foreigners think of "Christian," they equate Christianity with "western culture," which is explicitly not Christian. Knowing a little about their culture, I placed emphasis on Jesus as "teacher," similar to their utter devotion to one guru, and to "devotion," the highest display of faith. I also shared my identity in Christ as His adopted son in my baptism, a direct opposite of those 5 items Sikhs carry on them.

I shared about my testimony, of growing up as a Christian, hating Jesus and leaving him and my faith behind for years, and yet still be the recipient, like St. Paul, of incredible and crazy grace.

At the end of it all, the Sikh turned to me and said, "You really like this Jesus, don't you?"

"Yes," I agreed.

This is only a snapshot of the conversation. I couldn't include my Hindu friend's encouragement to try the goat curry—only to let me know after I ate it that having too much of it could be bad for your heart. Nor have I touched upon their direct questioning about America's pornography industry, and why don't Christians do something about it? At least that topic of pornography needs to wait for another article.

At the end of the car ride, no one became Christian, but it was the general consensus of my three international friends we would have lunch again in the next month. I think we're having Thai food.

**By Joshua P. Smith**

**Assistant Director of the Lutheran Student Center, Arlington, TX**



*We thank the Lord of the Harvest for raising and sending laborers into the mission field. Pastor Karim Baidaoui, Missionary-at-Large in Texas with Missionaries in training Sabir Bashear from Pakistan/India and Joshua Smith from LSC/UTA.*

# Help POBLO-TX Adopt a Refugee Family in Christ

*"In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ..." Ephesians 1:5*

**S**truggling refugee families fill our streets every day. There will be approximately 3,000 more new families arriving this year in the North Dallas area. "...**open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.**" **John 4:35** POBLO-TX is right in the heart of the metroplex where these refugee families first come to know this new land.



There's no denying God has brought the nations to our front doors. But how do we begin to witness to all of these refugee families? By being able to reach out and help them with their needs - thus presenting us the opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ! **"...I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them away from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."** Act 26:17

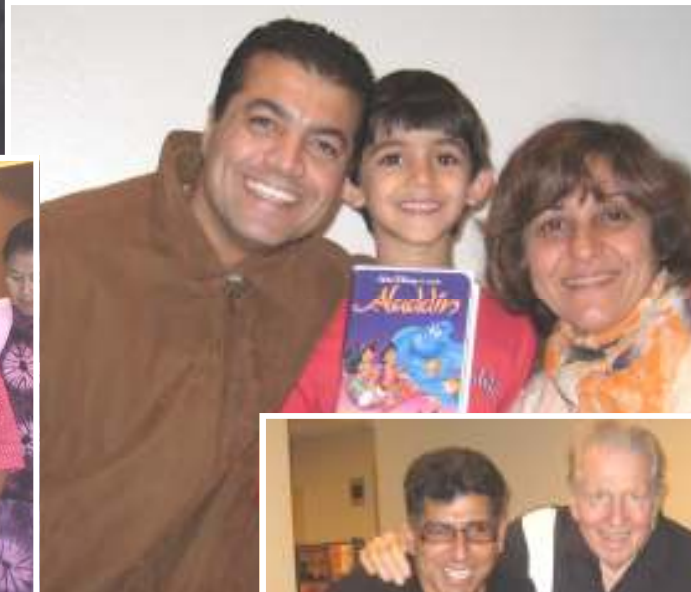
We are seeking a variety of ways to make a difference for these new families that are new to our streets and city. Yes, there are refugee services that help and there is government assistance, but only for a short time. Even after finding employment, most barely have enough to live on for their daily living needs and expenses. Below are examples of 2 families who have been spiritually adopted in Christ into the Arabic Church of All Nations.



- **Pray daily for them.**
- **Organize a food drive with your church, school and neighbors for POBLO-TX food pantry at Our Redeemer in Dallas.**
- **Donate your used car and receive a tax write off from POBLO-TX .**
- **Donate your used furniture and/or small**

- **appliances/ electronic (we will pick up).**
- **Donate your used clothing, blankets and small space heaters.**
- **Help reduce their utility bills: Electricity (especially in winter/summer) , water, phone: \$60/month; Electric: \$ 250/mo.**

# ADOPT A



# FAMILY

# IN CHRIST!

When you are supporting POBLO-TX you are spiritually adopting a refugee family in Christ and you are indeed planting Churches of All Nations.

Without Jesus Christ these refugees (lost families) will miss the best in this life and everything in the next!



# Help POBLO-TX Adopt a Refugee Family In CHRIST



**When you adopt a family in Christ you are indeed making disciples of the Cross from All Nations. Please keep these refugee families in your prayers.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: I would like to Adopt a Refugee Family in one of the following ways: (check one)

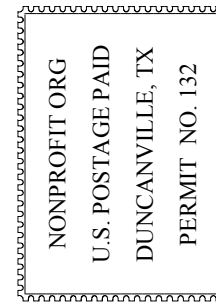
MONTHLY support of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

QUARTERLY support of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

YEARLY support of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**POBLO-TX  
7611 Park Lane  
Dallas, TX 75225  
214-368-1371 Ext 241**

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IN TEXAS  
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**NOTE: Please use the address above to send inquiries and support. Thank you!**

**DATED MATERIAL**