

Statements about New Creation Book for Muslims

by Donald McGavran

No. 1

The New Creation Book for Muslims is a most important publication. All Muslims should read it. It will fascinate them. Once they start reading it, they will not be able to lay it down. They will finish it with delight. Many of them will agree with it; some will disagree. This is the way all books are read.

Salim Munayer and Phil Goble, the joint authors of this most important volume, are experts in the Qur'an and the Bible. The last chapter, entitled "How to Start a House Masjid," is important reading. The authors in true New Testament style speak of starting many house masjids. Throughout the book, language and terms well known to all Muslims are the language in which the message is voiced. It is good reading. It will be very widely read by Muslims in India, the Near East, North Africa, the United States, England, Indonesia, and many other countries.

The New Creation Book for Muslims is must reading for all those who are talking to Muslims about salvation and eternal life.

No. 2

The New Creation Book for Muslims will appeal to all those seeking to share with their Muslim brothers and sisters their passion for a blest and radiant community of believers throughout the world. For far too long the 400 years of crusades by Christians against Muslims have engendered hate and enmity. The time has now come

for the Christian gospel to be presented to Muslims in Islamic terms.

The Qur'an calls Jesus Christ Isa al-Masih and the eternal and true Word of Allah.

At the same time the Bible must be accepted as the full revelation of God, the Creator, the Sustainer, and Redeemer of this world. The Bible is God's Word to fallen and sinful humans. God sent His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Isa al-Masih is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Him.

When our Muslim brothers and sisters become believers in the Word made flesh, they will join not congregations that use words suited to Western or Eastern cultures. They will join house masjids in which the language used is that which Muslims use. When they pray to God, they will pray to Allah. They will not go to church. They will go to masjids.

True, how far this identification with forms of worship that fit a civilization suited to life in the tropics can be used in northern countries is a question that each house masjid will have to settle for itself. Will all prayer be in the five postures used by Muslims in warm countries when they roll out their prayer rugs and pray in forms suited to these countries? Nevertheless, contextualization will occur in a major way.

The New Creation Book for Muslims is must reading for all those who seek eternal salvation for their Muslim neighbors and friends.

and earth, speaks to those whose understanding of man, Allah, sin, and salvation differs from the Bible, the final, unchanging revelation.

As evangelical Christian leaders read this book, they will be amazed at the adjustments the authors have made. They will also be pleased at the unyielding stand on revealed truth. As liberal Christian leaders read this book, they may feel that the authors have been too rigid. But they will certainly rejoice at the Islamic cultural forms in which the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, is presented.

The New Creation Book for Muslims is printed in narrow columns in blank verse style. This will appeal to all educated Muslims. This is, they believe, how all God's holy books should be written. This is a cultural adjustment well worth remembering, which all educated Muslims, whether those in North America, Europe, or elsewhere, will welcome. This style will make them feel that they are treading on holy ground.

Some of the notable features of the book are: its radical cultural contextualization, its use of Quranic style poetic prose, its extensive use of the Qur'an, its biblical recommendations for concealed congregations in situations of intense persecution, and its practical manual for starting indigenous house masjids. It presents forms for water baptism, the Lord's Supper, and prayer that have a distinctly Islamic feel.

Buy this book. It is published by William Carey Library, P. O. Box 40129, Pasadena, CA 91114. Ask your Muslim friends to read it carefully. Do not present it to careless, uneducated Muslim nonreaders of the Qur'an; they would not understand it. Do present it to thoughtful, thoroughly Muslim readers and students of the Qur'an.

This book is an excellent beginning of a new, culturally relevant method of proclaiming the gospel in a contextualized form to those who follow the Muslim traditions. It will appeal greatly to sincere, educated, and thoughtful Muslims. It is a distinct forward step in world evangelization.