

# OUTREACH TO MUSLIMS

**What have we learned? And, Where do we go from here?**

Report to the WELS Outreach To Muslims committee

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This was a learning process for me. Instead of jumping to the final page, we will review some of the things we have learned from others who have been reaching out to Muslims for 20, 30, and 40 years. We will review items related to Outreach and Assimilation, and also other items that are very beneficial. After reviewing what we have learned, we will discuss the Principles which will be the basis for our Goals and Methods.

## Outline

REVIEW of what we have learned

Outreach

Assimilation

Other beneficial items

As you do outreach to Muslims, expect persecution

Don't catapult new converts from Islam into the public ministry

Muslim and Hispanic outreach have some similarities

Guiding Scriptural PRINCIPLES

GOALS and METHODS

## REVIEW OF WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

### REVIEW WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED RELATING TO OUTREACH

#### 1. Outreach precedes and includes Evangelism

- Pre-evangelism prepares a person so they will listen to the Gospel
- Evangelism is proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel about Jesus
- First we let our light shine—show Christian love—then God creates faith and a converted soul praises God (Matthew 5:16)
- Outreach includes both pre-evangelism and evangelism
- Outreach is the operative word to fully describe our God-given mission to Muslims

#### 2. Two things that must never change

At a leadership conference, Pastor Elton Stroh, a former Director of Parish Assistance and now the Director of Crossroads Consulting Ministry, began with the quotation from Lyle Schaller, “The number-one issue facing Christian organizations on the North American continent today is the need to initiate and implement change.” Pastor Stroh then asked, “What two things *must never* change?” If you want to see pastors squirm, ask this question. This is so basic, but both parts of the answer are not being stressed as a unit. We are a Bible church. We stress – as we should – law and Gospel, sin and grace, Word and sacrament. Group all these things together and this is the first part of the answer to the question. What two things must never change? The first is the Christ-centered message of God’s Word. The Bible does not just contain God’s Word, the Bible IS God’s Word. We are to center our message on Jesus Christ. We are to faithfully proclaim all of God’s Word. This describes who we are and what we do. Ask anyone in one of our churches – even a six year old – “What is the Bible?” and you can expect him or her to answer with certainty, “The Bible is God’s Word!” Ask “What are the two main teachings of the Bible?” and you can expect him or her to answer without hesitation, “Law and Gospel.”

But ask, “What are the two things that must never change?” and it’s not just the kindergartner who can’t state what the second thing is that must never change. His or her pastor will probably hesitate and have to search their mind for the complete answer.

The second answer to this question was taught but has not been stressed well until recently. We expect all of our members to promptly answer the question, “What are the two main teachings of the Bible?” by saying, “Law and Gospel.” All of our members—including our pastors—also need to be trained to promptly answer the question, “What two things must never change?” by saying, “The message of God’s Word AND the mission of the Church—these two things must never change.”

#### 3. The mission of the church is clearly mandated by Jesus

- The 5 Great Commissions – On five different occasions from Easter evening until His ascension—again, and again, and again, and again, and again—Jesus stressed the magnitude and the importance of this commission and what He expected of His followers.
- “As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you” (John 20:21). Jesus is not leaving them in the world, but sending them into the world. Just as the Father sent Him to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10), Jesus is sending His followers out into the world to seek and save the lost.

- “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15). Share the Gospel person-to-person with all people.
- “Go and make disciples of all nations... baptizing... teaching...” (Matthew 28:18-20). With a mandate from God Himself, Jesus empowered His followers and gave them the tools and the method to reach out.
- “Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations” (Luke 24:47). This is the message His followers are to share with all nations.
- “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...” (Acts 1:8). Spiritual work requires spiritual power to achieve spiritual ends. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we receive divine empowerment and spiritual strength to be Christ’s witnesses
- “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Be Christ’s witnesses right where you are, and at the same time reach out to those around you, and at the same time take the Gospel to the ends of the earth.
- “GO, you SHALL BE my witnesses...” – This is Jesus’ mandate, His Great Command. This was not a feeble, empty suggestion.
- We are not here to find and recycle Christians, but to go and make Christian disciples.
- God’s mission is our mission.
- God’s mission is URGENT.

#### 4. Many congregations do very little or do not do any outreach

- Only 20-25% of all Lutheran congregations have an intentionalized form of outreach
- Having a framed mission statement on the wall does not make a congregation a “Great Commission congregation”
- In the Phoenix area, where the Hispanic population outnumbers the white population, WELS has 27 churches. Only two of these churches have formal intentionalized Hispanic outreach.
- Christian Friends of New Americans, after ten years of existence in the heartland of Missouri Synod and with many congregations in the St. Louis vicinity, has only been able to have four congregations adopt a formal agreement of partnership with them

#### 5. Congregations that do little outreach have common characteristics

- The congregational leadership focuses on internal situations
- Members are not involved in their congregation’s neighborhood
- The same lay leaders have been serving for years
- The congregation has invisible barriers
- Unchurched people are made to feel like unwelcome outsiders
- Members see themselves as a family (it’s their pond)
- The Pastor is not taking the lead in doing outreach

#### 6. It’s comfortable to reach out to people who are just like you

- Churches that grow rapidly focus on people who are just like them
- But people who are just like us are not the only ones who need to be reached
- The church says it wants the lost to be saved, but does the church want the lost dregs of society to come to them?

7. Great Commission outreach congregations have common characteristics

- Pastor and the congregational leadership fully support the mission of the church
- They see the difference between internal and external focus
- They help members grow in the Word –AND–go with the Word to others
- A large number of members are in worship and also in Bible study
- They are deeply committed to Great Commission outreach
- They are highly motivated to reach the lost
- They desire to bring new members from different cultures into the congregation
- They recognize that there is no gimmick or “magic pill”
- They are outgoing and friendly—not just to each other, but also to visitors
- They understand their neighborhood
- They develop and customize activities that meet the needs of their neighbors
- They follow the example of Jesus by caring for both spiritual and physical needs
- They put their faith in action by meeting the needs of people in their neighborhood
- Fear of making mistakes will not keep them from trying something new
- They focus on ministry, not on following church traditions
- They focus on ministry to people beyond the current membership
- They see clergy and laity as partners—and utilize the Priesthood of all Believers
- They have a strategy for assimilating new members into their congregation
- They are willing to put forth the effort

8. God’s love motivates Christians (motivates me!) to show love to others

- “God so loved the world” (John 3:16) = “God so loved ME”
- “Christ loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20)
- “Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:11)
- “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:17)

9. Outreach takes place when Christians adopt the attitude of Jesus toward souls

- “The Lord does not want any to perish, but wants all to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9)
- “The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10)
- “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5)
- We will want to show a loving, caring Christ-like attitude toward the souls of all people
- We will want to show a loving, caring Christ-like attitude toward the souls of all Muslims
- If I have a truly Christ-like attitude, this acronym will describe me:

I – I

S – Sincerely

L – Love

A – All

M – Muslims

10. Cross-cultural outreach is more difficult than reaching out within the same culture

- There are many obstacles to reaching out cross-culturally.

#### 11. Outreach to Muslims is more difficult than cross-cultural outreach

- Muslims do not have a Christian background
- Muslims do not have a Western background
- In many Muslim countries, there is hatred toward Christianity and Christians
- The Muslim attitude towards Christians is based primarily on the Crusades.
- We often have negative attitudes toward Muslims
- Muslims are often fearful of us and the attitude we might have toward them

#### 12. Our goal is to bring people to Jesus

- Our goal is not to make Muslims members of our particular denomination
- Our goal is to bring people to Jesus
- If we badmouth other denominations, new Christians think we are not loving
- If others think Christians are divided, it creates a stumbling block to the Gospel

#### 13. Reach out in LOVE

- Teach our members to show genuine LOVE to those who need Jesus.
- Refugee people have many needs. One need that supersedes all others is someone to be their friend who shows Christian love
- Many refugees and immigrants were traumatized in their home countries
- They need security and love
- 85+% of Muslim converts say it was the love of Christians that drew them to Jesus

#### 14. Contact recent arrivals as soon as possible

- Look for ways to meet and greet the refugees and immigrants as soon as possible
- If possible, meet them—literally—when they step off the boat or the plane
- If new arrivals come into America through an International Center, meet them there
- Look for opportunities which provide an initial contact.
- Our best opportunity to establish a relationship with new arrivals is before they become part of a closed society
- Welcome them and explain what you can do for them
- Reach out to them when their needs are the greatest—and help them
- Let them experience Christ's love through you
- Build on this initial contact with many more caring contacts

#### 15. Outreach and welcoming must be intentionalized.

- Greet Muslims with a smile
- Treat them with respect
- Look for ways to develop a friendship

#### 16. Get them in the Word as soon as possible

- My personality, knowledge, and thoughts won't save anybody
- Only the Gospel is the power of God for salvation (Romans 1:16)
- Dangers of "camel method" – using the Qur'an to lead a Muslim into the Bible
- Get a Muslim away from the Qur'an as quickly as possible and into the Bible

- The Qur'an mentions the Injil (Gospel); Muslims think the Injil is a book of Law
- Explain to Muslims that the Gospel is not a book but a message
- Distribute the Bible and Bible portions in a dual language formats
- We need massive distribution of the Bible so the Holy Spirit can create faith in many
- Home Bible study in the homes of Muslims is a key to effective outreach

#### 17. Follow Christ's pattern of ministry.

- Jesus showed He cared about people and the difficulties they were facing
- Jesus provided for both their spiritual needs as well as their physical needs
- Jesus visited people in their homes
- Jesus loved them and showed it

#### 18. From the very beginning, use an outreach method that targets the children

- Sports programs
- After school tutoring programs
- ESL

#### 19. Determine the needs of each ethnic community and seek to meet their needs

- Follow the example of Jesus by caring for both spiritual and physical needs
- Determine the needs of the people in the community
- Determine the skills and gifts of your members and match these to the needs
- Develop and customize activities that meet the needs of your neighbors

#### 20. English as a Second Language (ESL) is a good outreach method

- Refugees and immigrants need to learn English—this meets their needs
- Put others in the ESL class to interact with Muslims
- Use a variety of materials including Bible lessons
- If using the Bible, tell the people up front that a portion of the ESL will use the Bible
- Don't be deceptive and try to sneak in the Bible

#### 21. Motivating, training, and involving a large number of volunteers is necessary

- Volunteers are the lifeblood of our community outreach programs
- There is always a need to recruit more volunteers
- Designate people who can help, encourage them, and ask them to serve
- Recognize the danger of developing a canned institutionalized program
- Volunteers want to be part of a living program

#### 22. Be fishers of men.

- Let down your net and minister to whomever the Lord puts into your net

#### 23. The largest ethnic concentrations are not necessarily the best place for outreach

- Orange County California has the largest Vietnamese population in the USA
- The Vietnamese-Americans all live in a closed society
- It is almost impossible to have an effective outreach program in Orange County, CA
- Considering the above factors, WELS started a Vietnamese congregation in Boise, Idaho

- The largest concentration of Muslims is in the Dearborn, Michigan area
- Most of the Muslims in the Dearborn area live in a closed society
- It is very difficult to access people who are part of a large closed self-segregated society
- Our best opportunity to reach them is before they become part of a closed society

24. In your ministry to Muslims, make use of the power of prayer

- There is an intense spiritual battle waging
- Pray God will lead you to Muslims who need to hear the Gospel
- Pray God will open the eyes of Muslims in general
- Pray God will bring specific Muslims to faith in Jesus as their Savior
- Pray for the needs of a Muslim
- Use a mealtime prayer as an opportunity to demonstrate how Christians talk to God

25. Developing long-term relationships is vitally important

- Muslims need to know you genuinely care about them
- Imitate Jesus, the “Friend of sinners”
- Look for ways to become their friend
- Take the time to develop relationships with Muslims in your community
- Remember, each Muslim is a soul that needs to be freed from Satan’s grasp
- Don’t have unrealistic expectations that there will be quick results
- It will often take several years to gain their trust, then share your faith
- Don’t pretend to care and then cut them loose
- A quick “catch and release” program will not work

26. Women need to be involved to minister to Muslim women

- Every group doing outreach to Muslims stressed the importance of training and using women to reach out to Muslim women
- Culturally (Muslim culture) a man will not be able to speak to a woman
- Even if a man could speak with a woman, he will not be effective
- Women need to be involved so we have an effective ministry
- The Bible teaches the universal priesthood of believers
- Christian women, serving the community, develop relationships with Muslim women
- Christian women need to be trained to reach out to Muslim women
- This is not optional; we must train and use women in reaching out to women

27. If possible, have a separate building—not a church—to which Muslims are invited

- Many Muslims, who would not enter a church, will come to a non-church building
- For the comfort factor of the ethnic, there needs to be a separate building, not a church building, to which the immigrants and refugees are invited.

28. Our outreach needs to focus on ethnic groups in urban Areas

- People from all over the world are coming to North America
- When the world comes to us, make use of the opportunity
- The Church in North America is in a time and place of unprecedented opportunity

- These precious souls need the saving gospel of Jesus
- We need to show a genuine care and concern for the souls of others
- There is urgency that we reach these new ethnic groups
- We need to connect with new people in the community and reach them before they are swallowed up by Muslims or some other non-Christian groups
- New converts can share the Gospel with others here
- New converts can share the Gospel with friends and family in their native country

29. “Draw – Bridge – Home” is an effective outreach method

- Draw them in – through Christian love in action
- Provide a bridge to a local congregation – through members who become their friends and share God’s Word
- Provide a home for them – by assimilating them into a local congregation, a church home
- Remember, a new convert from Islam will usually be cut off completely from his or her family and really needs loving, caring Christians who become his or her new family

30. Success is not measured with numbers but with our carrying out Christ’s mission.

The success or failure of a Christian mission can hardly be measured only in terms of the number of converts. “Mission is not a calculus of success but an obligation in love... We present Christ for the sole reason that he deserves to be presented”

(Kenneth Cragg, quoted in *How to Respond to MUSLIMS* by Ernest Hahn, CPH 1995, p.60).

31. Most of the principles of outreach to Muslims are applicable to outreach to all people



## REVIEW WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED RELATING TO ASSIMILATION

### 32. The WELS Commission on Evangelism has excellent materials

- These are posted on their Connect web site
- Materials cover assimilating new members
- Materials include ongoing activity to keep members connected
- Emphasis is on relationships with other members
- Emphasis is on keeping members growing in the Word
- Materials do not address the issue of cross-cultural assimilation

### 33. Prepare congregations for the changes that take place during cross cultural assimilation

- New members or prospective members will be different in appearance
- Some will have limited English speaking ability
- Some will have a thick accent when speaking English
- Some will smell like curry or garlic
- Some have different ways of doing things than we do
- Some will follow “rubber time” and not be used to being punctual
- Remember, the most important characteristic for a person is being an active Christian
- We must be welcoming and show we care about each person
- Cross-cultural friendships lead to cross-cultural dating, marriage, and children

### 34. Some congregations don’t want to assimilate new members

- The congregation has become a closed society
- Some congregations do not want to do anything that would cause any changes
- Some members are prejudiced toward others
- Because of these attitudes, the congregation will not have formal intentionalized outreach
- One Detroit congregation chose to dwindle down to 10 people and then close their doors
- To change a congregation’s attitude takes time and is a slow process

### 35. Some congregations will assimilate people into the congregation who are just like them.

- These congregations will grow numerically
- The Lord is more concerned about the attitude of our heart than numerical growth
- We will want to show a loving, caring Christ-like attitude toward all people
- The make-up of our congregation should reflect the ethnic mix in our community

### 36. Cross-cultural assimilation is more difficult to achieve than same-culture assimilation

- Alan C. Klaas, author of *In Search of the Unchurched*, has many insights
- This is a formidable task
- Pastor needs to be fully engaged with the concept of aiming to be fully integrated
- If the surrounding community is not integrated, a congregation will not achieve this
- A congregation might think of itself as integrated, but often have parallel groups
- One congregation had 3 separate cabinets for silverware for the 3 groups represented
- The congregation must first stop being German and become American
- A “us” and “them” attitude is not a picture of unity in the body of Christ

37. It is very difficult to assimilate Muslims into a congregation if Muslims are hated

- Example of hatred of “Japs” after WWII
- It is feared that Islam is threatening the world, America, and Christianity
- Muslims are hated because of the 9-11 attacks in 2001 and other attacks
- To change our attitude, we must view Islam as a threat, but Muslims as individual souls
- When Jesus taught the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus asked, “Which one was a neighbor to him (the man who fell into the hands of robbers)?” (Luke 10:25-37)
- Am I being a “neighbor” to the Muslims I meet?

38. Complete assimilation includes integration

- There must be approval for cross ethnic dating
- Integrated couples in the congregation need to be mingling, not treated like lepers
- There must be approval for racially mixed children
- Pastoral enthusiasm to accomplish this needs to be tempered with realism and patience
- Congregations that have assimilated cross-culturally should be held up as examples

## REVIEW OTHER BENEFICIAL ITEMS

39. As you do outreach to Muslims, expect persecution

- Without intentionally being offensive, your message will ruffle feathers
- All who desire to live in Christ Jesus will be persecuted – 2 Timothy 3:15
- You will be persecuted because you are God’s messenger
- “And take they our life...” is not just a phrase from *A Mighty Fortress*
- Remember, God is in charge of when He takes us home to heaven

40. Don’t catapult new converts from Islam into the public ministry

- It takes time to leave behind a dominating, life-controlling religion
- It’s difficult to quickly accept that everything you previously believed has been a lie
- Muslim converts often have a very shallow comprehension of Bible teachings
- Long term training is necessary to make firmly rooted disciples
- “Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands” – 1 Timothy 5:22
- We want the ministry to seek the person, not the person to seek the ministry

As a new Christian convert grows in faith, get him or her involved in serving in the congregation. Evaluate his gifts to see if he should be selected for Congregational Assistance Program training, and use as a leader in the congregation. Then evaluate to see if the gifts and willingness and heart of a servant are present to begin training for the public ministry. God will use the people He has given us to do outreach to Muslims, whether white and always a Christian or a Muslim background believer from a different ethnic background.

#### 41. Muslim and Hispanic outreach have some similarities

Pastor Tim Flunker serves as the WELS Hispanic Outreach Coordinator. His responsibilities and observations need to be considered:

- Create interest in doing outreach. Encourage the pastor and members of a congregation to do this first, before they consider cross-cultural outreach.
- “I will be a consultant for you and train you, but I won’t do the work for you.”
- Stress to the congregation that if they begin this cross-cultural outreach, they must be in it for the long term. If after several years there are no results or low results and they stop, this will destroy all future possibility of restarting such outreach for 15 to 20 years.
- If the pastor is not willing, nothing gets done.
- Sometimes we turn our faith on and off. The congregational members need to be encouraged to show they are not just Sunday morning Christians, but ones whose faith and life are one. The people we are reaching need to see this in us.
- Pastor Flunker makes three visits to a congregation; each visit is normally over a 4 day weekend.
- 1<sup>st</sup> visit – gather information about the community, tour the area and learn history of area and of congregation, preach and conduct Bible class, plant seed, encourage general outreach and cross-cultural outreach, give them an idea about the Hispanics with whom they will be working.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> visit – a training visit. Help members understand cultural differences and uniqueness of outreach to Hispanics.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> visit – sit down with congregational leaders and help them develop an outreach plan that considers the characteristics of the target audience as well as the skill set the members possess.
- Once something is started, Tim will respond within 24 hours to an email or a phone call and visit the congregation if necessary. Otherwise, he will return for a follow-up visit in six months.
- Congregations with linguistic and cultural barriers can overcome these barriers, but the process might take longer.
- Our eternal goal is heaven. Our earthly goal is to have Anglos and Hispanics worshipping together.
- Unlike the Mission counselors whose work is territorial, our positions cover all of North America and it is more difficult to project travel expenses.

## GUIDING SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES

### 1. The Holy Spirit creates faith in our hearts through the Word of God

1 Corinthians 12:3

<sup>3</sup> Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 1:23

<sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

### 2. The Holy Spirit sustains faith through the Word of God.

John 15:4–6

<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

John 20:31

<sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

### 3. We are to nurture our members so they grow in the Word

John 21:15

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

1 Peter 2:2

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

### 4. Both nurture and outreach are to be part of our ministry

Matthew 28:19-20

<sup>19</sup> “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

## 5. We are to seek and save the lost

Luke 19:10

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost”

John 20:21

“As the father has sent Me, I am sending you”

Luke 4:43

“I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to other towns also, because that is why I was sent”

- Who are the lost in our world today?
- Am I looking beyond my own congregation so that other souls might be saved?
- What percentage of our time and resources might be directed to preaching the good news to others?

## 6. As followers of Jesus, we are to be actively involved in outreach

- As followers of Jesus –as disciples of Jesus –we are to be actively involved in making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:10).
- We are to be fishers of men (Mark 1:17), workers in his harvest field (Luke 10:1-3), bearing much fruit, fruit that will last for eternity (John 15:8,16).
- Part of our discipleship is that we put into practice what we have learned. We are to “GO” and reach out to others with the message of forgiveness. Having come to faith, we are to live our faith, and share our faith.
- Jesus said, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent” (Luke 4:43).

## 7. Carrying out our God-given mission of doing outreach must always be our unchanging goal

Matthew 28:18–20

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

## 8 The methodology we use may change and can be different from the methods someone else chooses to use.

9. Whatever hinders our carrying out the Christ-given mission of the Church—that must change.

Matthew 18:6-7

<sup>6</sup> But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. <sup>7</sup> “Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!

Mark 9:36-37, 42

<sup>36</sup> Jesus took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” <sup>42</sup> “And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck.

Luke 17:1–3

<sup>1</sup> Jesus said to his disciples: “Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. <sup>2</sup> It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. <sup>3</sup> So watch yourselves.

1 Corinthians 10:32–33

<sup>32</sup> Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—<sup>33</sup> even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

2 Corinthians 6:3

<sup>3</sup> We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

Romans 14:13-21

<sup>13</sup> Make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way. <sup>14</sup> As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. <sup>15</sup> If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died. <sup>16</sup> Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil. <sup>17</sup> For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, <sup>18</sup> because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. <sup>19</sup> Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. <sup>20</sup> Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. <sup>21</sup> It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.

10. We are not to be self-serving, doing what pleases us, but put the interests of others before our own

Romans 15:1-3

<sup>1</sup> We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. <sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please himself.

Acts 15:19

<sup>19</sup> We should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

- If our audience changes, what must change?
- If our target audience changes, what must change? What might change?
- Educate the congregation and prepare them for change
- Change what you can without changing too much, too fast
- People won't care about us, until we show we care about them – and meet them where they are.
- Turnaround Churches (TC) realize that they do not exist for themselves, but for others.

11. As Jesus loved us, we are to love others

John 13:34-35

<sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Galatians 5:13

<sup>13</sup> Serve one another in love.

12. The compassionate love of God needs to show through us and to flow through us.

Matthew 9:36

<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 15:32

<sup>32</sup> Jesus called his disciples to him and said, I have compassion for these people

James 2:15–17

<sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

### 13. We are to accept one another in the spirit of unity.

Romans 15:5–7

<sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

1 Corinthians 1:10

<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

### 14. God wants pastors to prepare God's people for works of service

Ephesians 4:11-12 – <sup>11</sup> It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

### 15. We are to utilize the universal priesthood of all believers

1 Peter 2:9

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Revelation 1:5–6

<sup>5</sup> ... To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Romans 15:14

<sup>14</sup> I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

Colossians 3:16-17

<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.  
<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



## 16. We are to use our God-given gifts and abilities to serve others

1 Peter 4:8-10

<sup>8</sup> Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Romans 12:3–8

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. <sup>4</sup> Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

1 Corinthians 12:1,4-7

<sup>1</sup> Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. <sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. <sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

## 17. We are to encourage each other

1 Thessalonians 5:11

<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Hebrews 10:24,25

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. <sup>25</sup> Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another— and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

## 18. Planning is God-pleasing

Ephesians 1:11

<sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.

Exodus 26:30

<sup>30</sup> “Set up the tabernacle according to the plan shown you on the mountain.”

Proverbs 21:29

<sup>29</sup> An upright man gives thought to his ways.

### 19. God works according to His time schedule

Galatians 4:4-5

<sup>4</sup> But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

<sup>1</sup> As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

### 20. Those who live for Jesus will be hated and persecuted

John 14:18-20

<sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also."

2 Timothy 3:10–12

<sup>10</sup> You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, <sup>11</sup> persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. <sup>12</sup> In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

Hebrews 11:36–38

<sup>36</sup> Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— <sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

## GOALS

### 1. Make the best use of the Muslim Outreach Coordinator's time so he can assist a large number of congregations

God wants pastors to prepare God's people for works of service (Ephesians 4:11-12)

God does not want one person trying to do everything himself (Acts 6:1-7; Exodus 18:17-26)

#### METHODS:

- The Muslim Outreach Coordinator is to train and prepare multiple congregations for outreach to Muslims
- The Muslim Outreach Coordinator will not do the work that is the responsibility of the congregation
- In addition to the congregations with which the Muslim Outreach Coordinator is directly working, he will encourage other congregations to do outreach to Muslims
- In addition to the congregations with which the Muslim Outreach Coordinator is directly working, he will promote outreach by providing materials that will help congregations do general outreach, cross-cultural outreach, and outreach to Muslims

### 2. Lay a solid foundation for this new outreach program by starting small, evaluating and adjusting, and doing it well

#### METHODS:

- The Muslim Outreach Coordinator will begin by developing materials to directly assist Congregations
- The Muslim Outreach Coordinator will begin by selecting up to four congregations with which he will work directly
- The Muslim Outreach Coordinator will prepare publicity to inform WELS members about his new position and what is planned
- The Muslim Outreach Coordinator will begin developing materials that will encourage an interest in doing outreach to Muslims
- The Muslim Outreach Coordinator will begin developing materials that will promote general outreach, cross-cultural outreach, and outreach to Muslims

### 3. Develop a process to incrementally train and prepare congregations for outreach to Muslims

#### METHODS:

- 1<sup>st</sup> visit – gather information about the community; tour the area and learn history of area and of congregation; preach and conduct Bible class stressing that God's mission is our

mission and God's mission is urgent; "plant the seed," use Scripture to encourage general outreach and cross-cultural outreach; discuss what is involved with outreach to Muslims; provide several basic books and materials about Islam and about outreach to Muslims, as well as a list of resources that will aid them during this training and planning process; start talking about (already in the 1<sup>st</sup> visit) the importance of involving women in reaching out to Muslim women; and provide materials for the congregational leaders to work through which will prepare them for the second visit.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> visit—Continue encouraging the members to focus on carrying out God's mission through general outreach and cross cultural outreach; stress the importance of developing a culture of warmth, welcome, and caring; explain the "fear factor" that we have toward Muslims and that Muslims have toward us; stress that while Islam is a threat, individual Muslims are souls who need to be saved; provide additional information about the beliefs of Muslims; prepare the congregation for the changes that would take place—without compromising doctrine—through an active outreach program ; share with the congregation the Biblically appropriate use of women especially in reaching out to Muslim women and why this is absolutely necessary; encourage the ladies in the congregation to expand their women's program to include providing service to the community so they can let their light shine, show Christian love, begin to develop relationships, and be used to prepare women's hearts to hear about Jesus; prepare the congregation for changes that would take place through assimilation, stressing how it is God's will that we accept one another in a spirit of unity (Romans 15:7); stress to the congregation that if they begin this cross-cultural outreach, they must be in it for the long term; and assign items for the congregation to accomplish prior to the next visit such as going out and finding out what are some of the needs that exist in their community.
- Provide materials so the congregation can conduct a self-evaluation to see if they are ready to begin outreach to Muslims.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> visit—build on the previous visit with additional information about the beliefs of Muslims, the challenges involved in doing outreach to Muslims, and the importance of overcoming our prejudices and showing love to Muslims as Christ loved us; discuss some of the methods both the men and the women could use to meet the specific needs of Muslims in this particular community, develop relationships, and show Christian love; help the women develop a five-prong approach to their ministry; and provide benchmarks for the congregation to achieve prior to the next visit.
- 4<sup>th</sup> visit—continue building on the previous visits, seeking to instill in the members that the love of Christ compels us to reach out to all people; discuss more appropriate methods they could use in doing outreach and assimilation; sit down with the men and women congregational leaders and help them to start develop both an outreach plan and an assimilation plan specifically tailored for their congregation that considers the characteristics of the target audience as well as the skill set the members possess; and provide benchmarks for the congregation to achieve prior to the next visit.
- 5<sup>th</sup> visit –finalize the congregation's specific outreach plan; finalize the congregation's specific assimilation plan; provide the congregation with a starter kit which includes dual language Scripture portions and other materials that they will be able to distribute until they order and receive additional Bible portions and other materials; and provide additional resources that will help them during their outreach and assimilation processes.

- During the implementation process, the Muslim Outreach Coordinator will check in regularly with the congregation and provide ongoing assistance.
- The congregation will be able to contact the Muslim Outreach Coordinator with any questions or concerns they might have during their implementation process
- The Muslim Outreach Coordinator will plan a follow up visit to take place between 6 and 8 months after the congregation begins their outreach

#### 4. Involve women in doing outreach to Muslim women

##### METHODS:

- Provide travel expenses for Marlys Reid so that she might accompany Pieter on visits to congregations that are preparing to do outreach to Muslims
- The Muslim Outreach Coordinator will conduct a Bible study for the congregational leaders showing how it is thoroughly Biblical especially for women to be involved in doing outreach to other women
- Marlys would train and prepare women within the congregation for doing outreach to Muslim women
- Work with WELS Women's Ministry and Multi-Language Publications to have women prepare and write appropriate materials (or edit existing materials such as the Bible Teaching Series) for use by women in outreach to women—in general, in cross-cultural situations, and in outreach to Muslim women
- Encourage Martin Luther College to include a unit which instructs and prepares the women in their staff ministry program to reach out to Muslim women
- Encourage congregations interested in doing outreach to expand their women's programs to include points 4 and 5 of a five-prong approach:
  1. Bible study
  2. Fellowship
  3. Serving the local congregation
  4. Do good to all people by providing service to the community (our mission field), and
  5. Train the women to reach out to other women  
[eventually this could include Muslim women].

#### 5. The Muslim Outreach Coordinator and the Outreach to Muslim committee will produce materials for all of our WELS congregations which encourage interest in doing outreach to Muslims

#### 6. The Muslim Outreach Coordinator and the Outreach to Muslims (OTM) committee will produce materials for all of our WELS congregations which would educate the members about Islam, as well as provide outreach encouragement and methods that can be used for cross-cultural outreach as well as outreach to Muslims.

### 7. Get Muslims into God's Word as soon as possible

- The more literature and Scriptures that are given out, the more opportunities for the Holy Spirit to work through that Word and cause Muslims to come to Christ.
- Always have literature and Scripture portions ready to hand out. Have these in English as well as the native language for the immigrants in your community.

#### METHODS:

- Review content of translated materials (written, audio, and video) which are available in the various native languages for most Muslims
- Select appropriate material
- Work with Multi-Language Publications (MLP) so that additional material can be written and/or translated
- Encourage all WELS congregations to make dual language Bible portions available if they have Muslims in their area
- Work with MLP so that Bible-storying materials are available for Bible study
- Remember, don't invite Muslims to church until they are ready.

### 8. Assimilate Muslims who are in the process of learning about Christianity into existing congregations.

- Remember the guiding Scriptural principle: We are to accept one another in the spirit of unity.
- Romans 15:5-7  
<sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.
- 1 Corinthians 1:10  
<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

#### GENERAL COMMENTS:

While there are times when it is valuable to have instruction or a worship service in a person's native language, I strongly feel that it is vitally important that we assimilate new Christians who had a Muslim background into an existing congregation. We are to be one body in Christ, having a unity not just in spirit but also outwardly. It is especially important for new believers to be assimilated into an existing congregation so they are not isolated from the body of

believers. By being part of an existing congregation, this would allow for the positive influence, instruction, encouraging, and mentoring of mature Christians.

Some feel that since it frequently happens that the white people aren't welcoming to other ethnic groups, that we should start individual ethnic congregations. Just because the children can't get along and play well with each other, doesn't mean we should find a separate building for each of them to play in where they can be with just the people they like. God wants us to strive to have unity. Those words in the Bible were spoken to people of different cultures, different ethnic backgrounds, and different social strata.

We must guard against allowing hidden prejudices to become a motive for separate churches. Not being welcoming can be because a person is prejudiced toward people of a different race, or prejudiced toward all races that are different than he is. Not being welcoming can also be a sinful characteristic rearing its ugly head. In Galatians 5:19-21, God describes some of these sins as: "hatred, discord, jealousy, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions envy, and the like." Satan works very hard to cause division within the church and there are many congregations where whiteness isn't welcoming to other whitenesses. This doesn't mean we should take the easy way out and totally avoid such persons of negative influence. It means we need to strive to live in harmony, unity, and Christian love—as difficult as that might be. Such a person of negative influence has a spiritual problem.

While there is definitely a time to reach out using a person's mother tongue, the danger is that we set up individual isolated groups of Christians that only serve their own kind. The Christian church is to be all inclusive. This is God's will; this is to be our goal. We can recognize the non-Christian ideology of a so called Christian church like Rev. Jeremiah Wright's black liberation theology church that is basically a black only church. It is not a black only church because it is in a black neighborhood, but because it chooses to serve only blacks. Such a black only church is in reality a racist church. Now substitute the skin color white for the previous statement. Think about a white only church that excludes other Christians because they are from different cultures, ethnic backgrounds, or skin color. A white only church that intentionally chooses to serve whites only is in reality a racist church. If we intentionally set up a Pakistani Christians only or an Egyptian Christians only church, isn't that being just as racist?

If the goal is to have an ethnic church served by an ethnic pastor, there would be a tremendous push to find an Ethnic person who could serve as a pastoral leader. There is a reason that the Bible warns us not to be too quick in the laying on of hands. There are numerous examples of catapulting someone into the ministry only to find out he did not have the heart of a servant or the characteristics necessary

Having an ethnic pastor serving an ethnic congregation is not a possibility at this time because we are not calling an individual to start and only serve one particular ethnic group in one location. Yes, we definitely want to be looking for individuals who have the gifts to serve in the public ministry and we want to encourage them. When this is considered in the future, please 1) keep in mind the warnings listed under Review Of What We Have Learned, #40 Don't catapult new converts from Islam into the public ministry. 2) try to locate the facility within three-fourths of a mile (approximately 1 kilometer) from an International Center through which refugees and immigrants are processed coming into a city in North America, and 3) consider using the facility as a transition to assimilating the ethnic persons into a local congregation.

9. Determine which congregation(s) will be assisted directly based primarily on whether or not the pastor and congregational leaders have the desire to reach out to Muslims in their community and bring them into the congregation.

10: Commit sufficient time and resources to be involved in outreach to Muslims for a minimum of eight years

- There are numerous examples of churches who began outreach to Muslims but stopped after 4 years because there were no numerical results.
- Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA) didn't start to see converts until about the 7<sup>th</sup> year. CFNA reaches out to all immigrants and refugees who come into this country through an International Institute in St. Louis, yet it took six years before their "Adopt a student" program had Muslims willing to participate. After ten years, there have been a total of 45 baptisms, most of these during the last 3-4 years. Twelve of these baptisms were within one extended family.
- Pastor Tim Flunker: "Congregations that start and then stop doing cross-cultural outreach, won't be able to return to this area and have any effective outreach for 15 to 20 years."

11. Monitor and adjust the goals and methods to better carry out the Lord's ministry

- If the members of the Outreach To Muslims committee are aware of the Lord opening a door of opportunity, or there is a need to tweak a program or adjust something, the committee will do this during their monthly teleconference
- At their annual face-to-face meeting, the Outreach To Muslims committee will monitor all its goals and methods and adjust as necessary
- Goals and guidelines are subject to modification as necessary



## 12. Acquaint all involved in this ministry with the personal risks involved

- Qur'an and Hadith – death to the apostate and death to those who assist an apostate
- Islam, al Qaeda, al Qaeda spin-offs, the Muslim Brotherhood, Islamists, and others are threats to America
- The Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists are determined to undermine and eventually destroy “The Great Satan,” America.
- The Congressional Research Service recognizes American Jihadist Terrorism as a serious and complex threat.
- Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVE) subjects have the knowledge, materials, and resolve to carry out attacks here in America.
- “Because they hate us.”
- Islamists within the United States are just waiting to strike soft targets and strike terror into “the great Satan,” America
- “Stealth Jihad” is being carried out—pursuit of their goals through legitimate ways; favorable textbooks; “political correctness” toward Islam; electing Islamists to government offices; and enacting laws against hate crimes toward Islam
- It is not a matter of “If” but “When” it becomes a hate crime to defame Islam or speak against it.
- Those who speak against Islam or the Prophet will be targeted.
- “Behead all those who insult Islam or the Prophet” – signs in America
- In doing outreach to Muslims, there are definite personal risks involved both for the person doing this and all those connected with him



1 Peter 4:12,13,16—Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>16</sup> If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

1 Corinthians 15:57,58—Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.