

# ISLAM



- GYC 2013
- Dr. Glenn Russell – Andrews University

# Islam is the Arabic word for “submission”

- A Muslim is someone who “submits” to Allah
- The essence of Islam is complete submission of one’s life to the will of Allah
- “ALLAH” is the Arabic word for “the only one true God”





Shahadah:



**“There is none worthy of being worshiped except ALLAH, and Muhammad (Peace Be upon Him) is the Apostle (messenger) of ALLAH.”**

# ORIGINS OF ISLAM

- **Muhammad (not “founder”)** lived from 570-632 C.E.
- **grew up in pagan area of Saudi Arabia**
- **Early Influences -** Influenced by some Jews and Christians; renounced idolatry



# Origins Of Islam - continued

- 610 AD - At age 40, Muhammad began to receive visions & revelations from angel Gabriel
- These revelations lasted for 23 years and became the Qur'an (sacred book)



*“Muhammad”* ↑



# Movement born in Conflict

- **Muhammad's message of monotheism met great opposition from pagan polytheist tribesmen (especially the merchants) in Mecca.**
- **Muhammad's followers faced great persecution.**
- **622 AD - Hijrah - Muhammad fled to Medina; marks official beginning of Islam**
- **Muhammad eventually organized an Islamic theocracy; larger than Roman Empire**



# Six Basic Beliefs Of Islam

## 1) MONOTHEISM

- Islam emphatically asserts that Allah is the one and eternal God
- Allah is the Lord and Creator of the universe
- Islam totally rejects the idea of Trinity
- 2 evidences of Allah's existence:
  - \* nature's order
  - \*the Qur'an
- The person who submits to Allah is a Muslim

# 2. PROPHETS

- Allah has sent many messengers (prophets) ... Noah, Abraham, Moses
- Jesus is a prophet; not Son of God; not divine (not Savior)
- Muhammad was the last and greatest prophet

# 3. SACRED WRITINGS:

## Qur'an

- Muslims believe in many inspired books (Torah, Psalms, Gospels)
- Only the Qur'an is the final, uncorrupted revelation of God's will
- Qur'an - copy of eternal scriptures in heaven
- Literal inspiration - Qur'an in Arabic is exact words of God revealed to Muhammad. God's perfect expression.

# Sacred writings ...

- The Qur'an is the most memorized book in the world
- Quran written down by Zayd
- Later compiled by 3rd Caliph.





# 4. ANGELS

- Muslims believe in intermediary beings called angels
- The highest angel is Gabriel
- Angels at the bottom of the list are fallen angels, = jinn, (genie)
- The primary work of angels is to record good and bad deeds

# 5. JUDGMENT

- On the Day of Judgment, all our actions in this life must be judged by Allah
- Allah will reward or punish us based on good or bad deeds
- If good outweighs the bad, we go to heaven. If not, to hell.

# 6. SALVATION

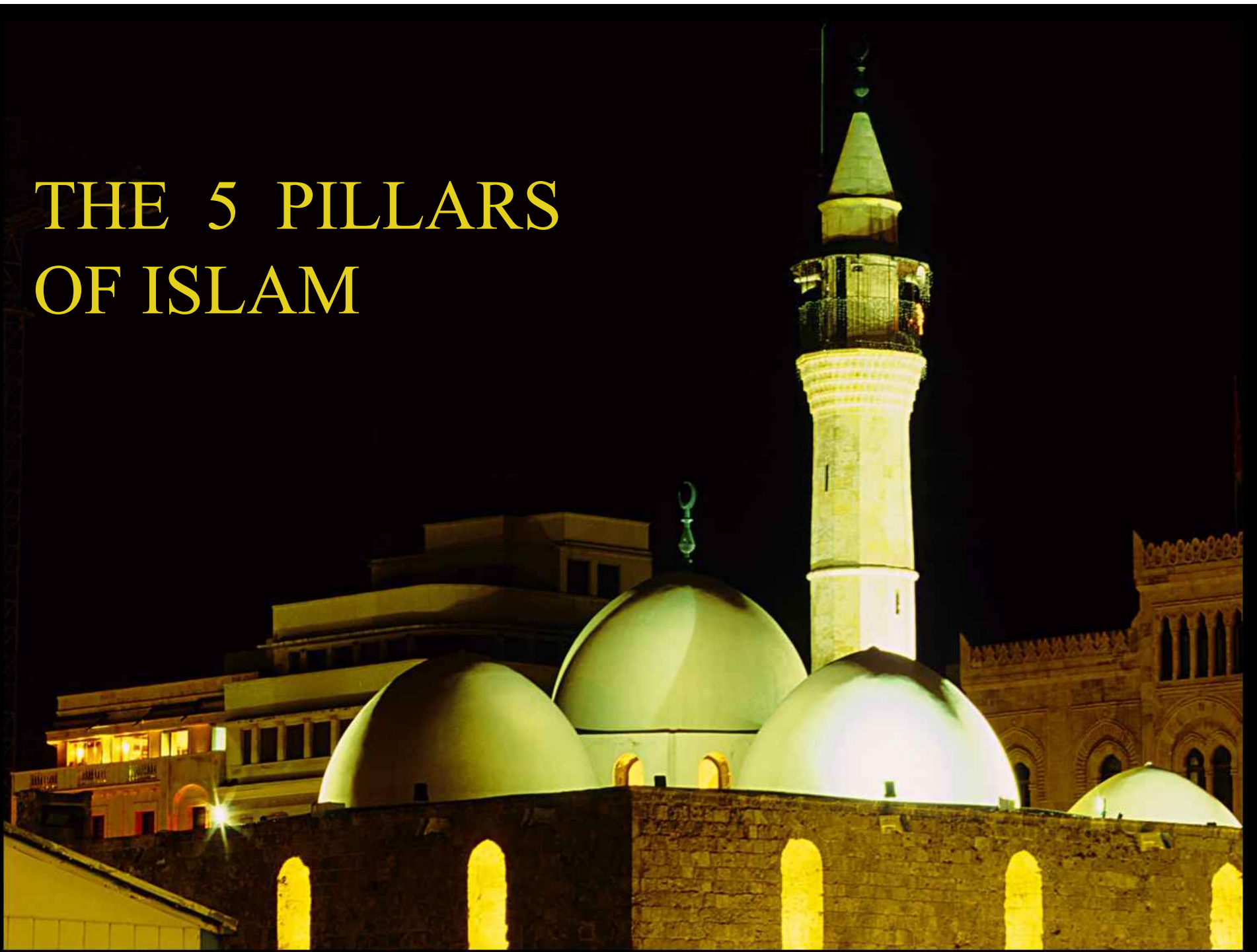
- **Salvation depends solely on human merit... good works**
- **Islam rejects divine atonement, redemption or grace**



picture



# THE 5 PILLARS OF ISLAM



# 1st Pillar: Shahadah

- (“bearing witness”)
- **“There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger”**
- **Saying this publicly with conviction qualifies you to become a Muslim**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> pillar: PRAYER



- required 5 times a day; facing Mecca
- After ritual washing of hands
- Islam's holy day is Friday... spend some time at mosque for prayers/ sermon

# A translation of the Adhan or Call to Prayer is:



- **“God is Great. God is Great.  
God is Great. God is Great.**

**I testify that there is none worthy of worship  
except God. (2x)**

**I testify that Muhammad is the messenger of  
God. (2 x)**

**Come to prayer! Come to prayer!**

**Come to success! Come to success!**

**God is Great! God is Great!**

**There is none worthy of worship except God.”**



# **3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar: FASTING**

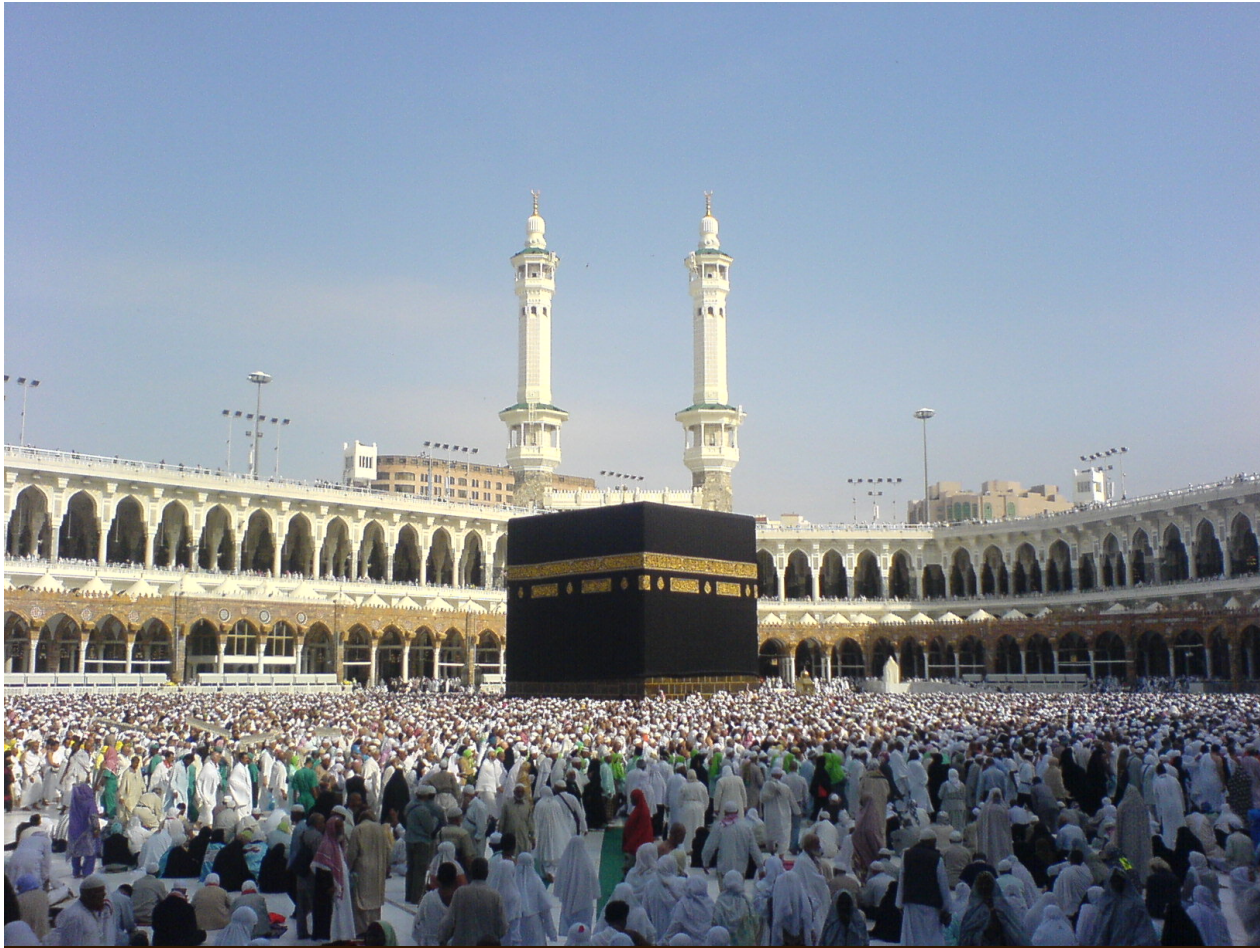
- **“ Sawm ” - fasting for month of Ramadan (when Muhammad received the Qur’ an)**
- **refrain from eating or drinking anything during daylight hours for month**

# **4<sup>TH</sup> Pillar: ZAKAH or Charity**

- giving alms is required of all Muslims; 2.5% of income to poor
- human beings are caretakers of God's wealth; doing business is good
- major concern of Qur'an is care of the poor;

# **5<sup>TH</sup> Pillar: PILGRIMAGE**

- **All Muslims are required once in lifetime to make pilgrimage to Mecca**
- **This pilgrimage (Hajj) includes two weeks of ceremonies and rituals**
- **Worshipers wear white garments to demonstrate equality before Allah**



# The Kaaba

- \* originally a pagan shrine
- \* a sacred black stone in Mecca;
- \* Abraham and Ishmael built altar

# Muslim Feasts and Holy Days



Muslims are required to participate in 2 annual feasts.





- Eid al-Adha: the annual festival of sacrifice
- Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son
- Muslims sacrifice animals, feed family & poor

# Major Groups within Islam

- **SUNNI:**

- successor to Muhammad should be chosen by election, not heredity
- believe in separation of civil and religious authorities
- Beliefs & practices based upon Qur'an and *hadith* (traditions)
- About 85% of all Muslims are Sunni

# SHI' A

- **Minority of Muslims**
- **Movement began with the martyrdom of Ali (Muhammad's son)**
- **Shi'ites believed the successor to Muhammad should be one of his descendants**
- **Believe that religious authorities should exercise religious and political power**



# SUFFI

- Minority
- Mystics of Islam
- Practice simple life of poverty & abstinence
- Emphasize the emotional & mystical aspects of devotion & worship



# **“In Shaa Allah” =**

- **“if God wills”**
- **Affects all plans for future**
- **May be distorted into fatalism**

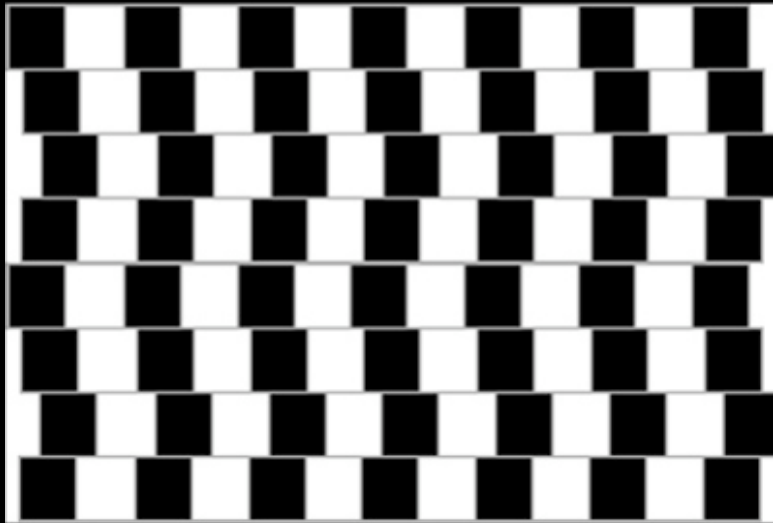


# **“JIHAD”**

- **Definition: Jihad is the struggle (for Islam) - “ a struggle in God’ s path”**
- **Jihad occurs 41 times in Qur’an – usually means “striving in the way of God”**
- **Rarely (but sometimes) means a Holy War.**
- **Only defensive battles to defend Islam are jihad**
- **Any personal struggle or societal struggle to advance Islam is Jihad. Reward is to go to Paradise**
- **Has been perverted & exploited by extremists**

# The Cross & the Crescent





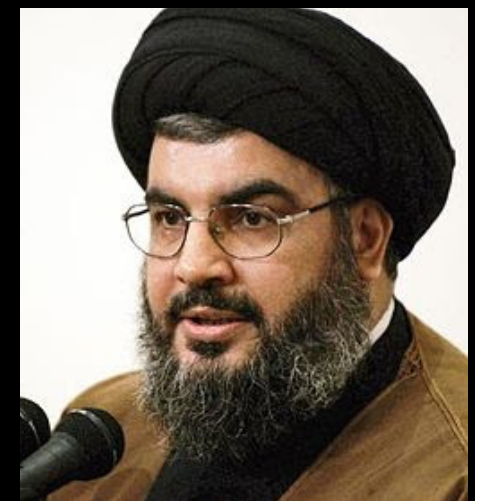
## Distorted perceptions:

- Research indicates that the vast majority of Muslim reject terrorism
- Yet the majority of Americans (66 percent) admit to having at least some prejudice against Muslims
- 1 in 5 Americans admits they have "a great deal" of prejudice against Muslim
- 1 in 4 Americans does not want a Muslim as a neighbor.
- 36% of Muslims believe that Western culture is decadent, immoral and godless (secular).
- What is done by western governments is perceived to be done by Christianity

# “Terrorists stole my religion”

## Problem of Extremism

- What is done by western governments is perceived to be done by Christianity.
- Extremists and fundamentalists have exploited Islam for violent purposes.
- Islam itself must confront those who manipulate Islam.
- Extremism multiplies in contexts of injustice, oppression, powerlessness.





Muslims  
are people  
of peace.  
We are not  
terrorists!





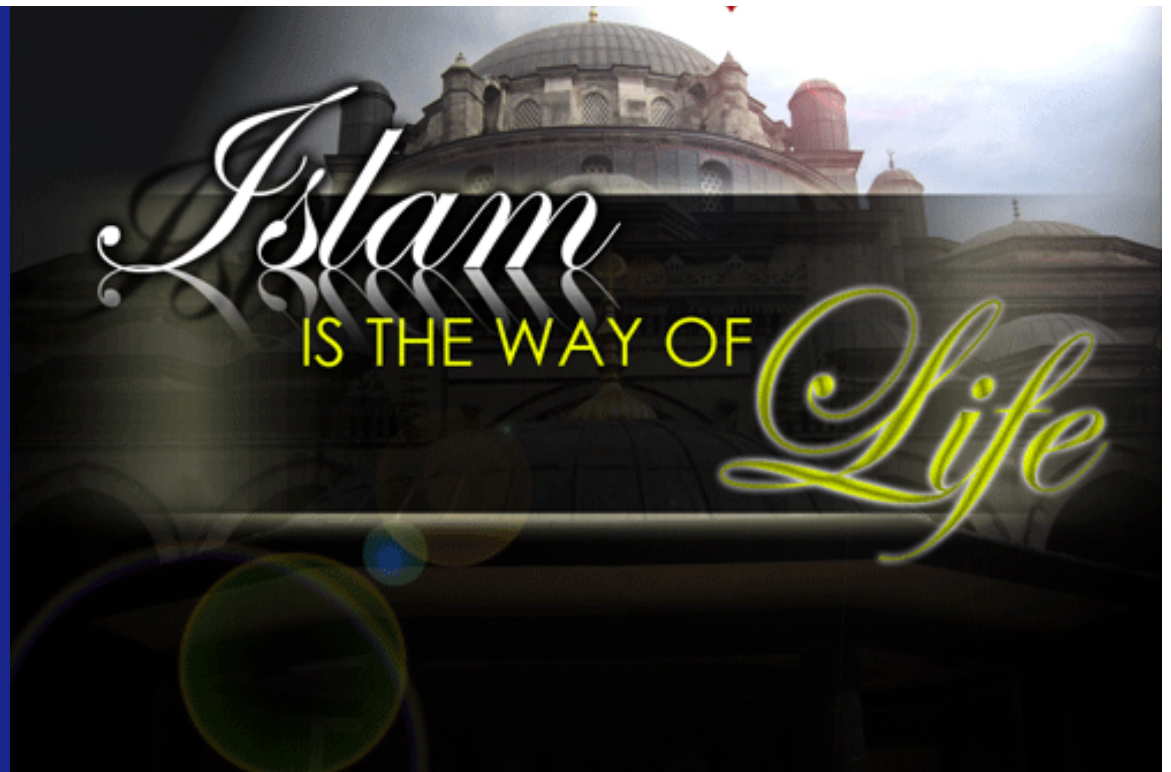
# LIFESTYLE PRACTICES

- **SHARI' A: the sacred law of Islam**
- **Based upon the Qur' an and other Muslim religious writings and traditions**
- **Shari' a covers every aspect of life**
- **Fundamentalism: Demands radical implementation of Sharia**





**Millions of  
Muslims  
take their  
faith very  
seriously**



**Muslims generally:**

- **Are very family-oriented**
- **Abstain from pork, alcohol, etc**
- **Are very much a part of a community of believers.**



- Conversion to Christianity is very difficult for it causes you to break with your family and your community... your entire life

# Your Muslim Neighbor

- Islam – 2<sup>nd</sup> largest religion in the world
- Islam – 3<sup>rd</sup> largest religion in USA
- Profile: Muslims in America
- Detroit
- Chicago
- Cities of US & Europe
- 500,000 - 700,000 Muslims living within 4 hour drive from Andrews University!





# Differences between Islam and Christianity

- The character of God in Islam emphasizes His justice but not His role as loving Father.
- Islam considers the Bible to be a corrupted revelation from God. Only the Koran is “pure truth”.
- Salvation by works: Islam does not accept the substitutionary atonement of Jesus.
- Adventist Sabbath-keeping appears “Jewish”

# **Common Ground between Islam and Adventism...**

- **Creation**
- **Conflict between God & Satan**
- **Fall of Humanity (Sin)**
- **Family values**
- **Stance on modern Israel & Zionism**
- **Health (abstinence from alcohol, pork, etc)**
- **Belief that Jesus (Issa) is coming soon.**

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## Worshipped God ignorantly – yet will not perish

- “Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, but they have cherished His principles. Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them. Even among the heathen are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness; before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives....



- ...“Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, yet they will not perish. Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God.”

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# The Call and the Mission

- Tremendous need for new initiatives – almost an untouched world of Islam.



# Mission to Islam

- **There are at least 1.5 billion Muslims**
- **There are millions of Muslims in the United States... in the neighborhoods where we work, live and worship.**
- **Many Muslims are accepting a missiologically-guided Adventist Christianity.**
- **“some in heaven who will not know why there are nail-prints in Jesus’ hands.”**



# Mission to Islam ...

- Waldensian Students
- Centers of Influence
- MEU: Andres Acuna





The Beginning?

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