

African Muslim Discovers God's Love and Power

“My name is D. B. and I am twenty-five years old. I was a Muslim from a family that had been Muslim for many generations. I was brought up in the Islamic faith... without any knowledge of Christianity... My father is a very devout Muslim who always prays five times a day, fasts every Ramadan... and has even performed the *hajj* to Mecca on three occasions. He married nineteen wives... I do not even know some of my half-brothers and sisters...

“From birth I was taught Islamic ways. Our home was like a mosque with my father as the Imam. He would lead...with a stick by his side. All my brothers and I would line up facing the *kibla* and if we made any mistakes my father would hit us with the stick or slap us on our faces. With heavy beatings and floggings I learned to pray in the correct Muslim way, saying prayers in the Arabic language that made no sense to me as I did not know the meaning...

“In January 1984, I was on my way to play soccer... Someone with a Bible in his hand stopped me and preached the Good News to me and I gave my life to Christ. This was the greatest day in my life! The man of God spoke to me in a gentle way, yet he spoke with power and authority. He did not condemn me although there was much sin and wrong in my life and heart...

“Two very important things stick out in my mind about what he said to me and about what he read. The first had to do with love and the fact that this stranger really loved me and was genuinely interested in my well-being and in the condition of my eternal soul. More than that, this kind man told me that God loved me and wanted to take care of me. That was very strange to me, since I had never been taught that God loves me. I thought God was unknowable and that He would not be concerned with my problems or needs. I thought of Allah as a very strict master who was quick to punish my wrong deeds but who cared very little about me as a person since I was not worthy of His attention, since I had never done anything great for Him to win His admiration or concern.

“The second thing that I remember had to do with the power and authority of Jesus. The man of God who ministered to me spoke with authority and power as he told me of Jesus the Messiah who came to earth as God in the flesh. He told me that Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth and that He could and would help me find solutions to my problems and supply my needs. That was extremely good news for me. I had never seen any demonstration of power in Islam. All I had seen in Islam was fear and threats.

“After I gave my life to Christ, my father and all my relatives were very much against me. Some cursed me while others mocked me mercilessly. My father was very furious... He hired a qur'anic teacher to tutor me in the Qur'an and he would schedule those lessons on the same days and at the exact times that my church would have its... services... When that did not dampen my spirit because the Lord gave me peace and joy and grace, my father threatened to kill me with "black medicine" of the voodoo and

other evil spirits... but I did not fear the evil spirits because I knew that Jesus was greater than Satan and his evil hosts. My father's pride and reputation as a respected *hajji* were jeopardized by my confession that Jesus is Lord. I continued to respect my father and to submit to the qur'anic teacher until I finished my education. I then left home and had the liberty to attend the church meetings that are so precious to me.

“I found a job as a storekeeper in the northern part of [my country] and I settled there for a while and joined a small church that now has grown to be very large and powerful by God's Holy Spirit. I came under attack there by Muslims who threatened my life and... I was attacked by Satan who would speak to me and tell me that I was going to die. At times late at night (one or two o'clock in the morning), his voice would wake me up and tell me that I must die. From 1984 to 1986, this problem from Satan nearly took my life but I continued serving Jesus. In April 1986 after Sunday services, I went back to the church alone. I prayed earnestly pleading the blood of Jesus Christ, and that was the end of this oppression by Satan and his evil forces! So Jesus set me free and I'm free forever, Amen!

“I was obedient to the Lord's command to be baptized in water... At the same time that I was baptized in water, the Lord Jesus baptized me in His Holy Spirit... This very special blessing has given me a special closeness to God... God has allowed me to minister healing in Jesus' name... On one occasion I was ministering healing in the mighty name of Messiah Jesus to a small Muslim boy who was crippled in his legs, arms, and hand. I prayed for his hand to be healed and God immediately healed it, all praise and glory be to Him. There was a large crowd of Muslims who saw me praying to God for this little boy. They chased me into my home where they were unable to harm me. The boy's hand was completely healed and the Muslims could not deny this miracle from God.

“I have worked as a merchant marine and have sailed to many places... God has always supplied my needs... He has given me opportunities to witness to many who are bound by Satan in alcohol and drug abuse and prostitution and demon possession and oppression. I try always to give a witness for the Lord Jesus the Messiah who has the power to set people free from all these things.

“Very late in the evening while at port... some of us were playing soccer, trying to get some exercise for our legs that were quite weak from our time at sea... the ball went into the water... I dived into the water after the ball... I threw it back to someone on the dock but then I started to struggle with the water... I could not make it to the ladder. I thought that I would surely die... All the people on the ship and dock thought I was going to die since most of them worshipped the sea and thought it was an angry god who would punish me for jumping into it in such a manner. Just as I thought that I would die, someone threw me a line and the Lord gave me strength to hold on... I know that the Lord saved me from the sea that night and I praise Him that He has something for me to do for Him before I am called home to heaven.

“I have forgiven [my father] for all the things that he did to me wrongly and I love him with a supernatural love, a special love that can only be given to us by a loving God... Praise God my mother has come into the kingdom of God... She, as well as two of my siblings are living victoriously for Him. God is supplying my needs... I study His word daily and I enjoy praising Him in songs and hymns... He is my true Father and I am extremely fortunate to have been snatched from the bondage of Satan.

“In conclusion, right from the time I was saved, God taught me that the devil and his evil spirits are powerless by the blood of Christ. I praise God for His wonderful love and His tremendous power. My Muslim brother, I am not condemning you... I challenge you to investigate the things I have claimed in this testimony. Find out for yourself if they will work in your life.”