

Egyptian Sheikh Becomes a Christian Preacher

As a young boy, Muhammad Mansour entered the village qur'anic school. He was an intelligent lad, and in a few years he had memorized the whole Qur'an. Afterwards, he went on to study Islamic sciences and the *Shari'a* under one of the most famous educators in the area. Again Muhammad showed a great ability to learn, and he excelled in all he did. He later became the imam and preacher at the most famous mosque in his city and opened a school devoted to Islamic education.

As a zealous Muslim, Sheikh Muhammad started to investigate Christianity to find out how to "defeat Christians." His inquiries led him to meet with a "Christian" tanner. But when he asked the tanner about Christianity, the man said, "I do not know anything about Christianity... go to the priest." The priest did not know much about the Bible either, but he took Muhammad to a blind church deacon who knew the Bible. The deacon refused to talk with the Muslim sheikh, though, advising him to go to the evangelical pastor in the village instead.

After a long talk with the evangelical pastor, Sheikh Muhammad was convinced of the superiority of Islam. But just as he was leaving, the pastor made a final remark. "Everyone should ask God to lead him in the right path," he said, "and I advise you to ask Him to guide you to the truth." Muhammad protested: "Do you think I doubt my faith? God forbid! All of us Muslims ask God five times a day to guide us to the truth."

But later Muhammad Mansour started thinking: "How do I know that I am right? Maybe I *am* walking down the wrong path." He started to study Christianity again. He attended a few meetings at the evangelical church and obtained a Bible and began to read it. It was not long before he became distraught and anxious as he realized that he had been wrong. But soon all his doubts were replaced with joy and peace as he accepted Jesus.

The news of Mansour's conversion to Christ spread like wildfire, throwing the Muslim community in the village into great shock and turmoil. Mansour left the village to be baptized somewhere else, and the family discovered this. His father went to where he was, trying to convince him to come back to Islam—but to no avail. His uncle secretly monitored him for a few days and lay in ambush for him at a street corner to kill him with a butcher knife. But Muhammad felt what was happening just seconds before the fatal thrust. He hit his uncle with his staff, the knife dropped, and Muhammad took hold of him. Instead of punishing his uncle, Muhammad witnessed to him about Christ's love and forgiveness and let him go.

For twenty-five years, Sheikh Muhammad Mansour served his Lord and Savior. He preached Christ among his Muslim brothers until he went to be with the One who died and rose again for his sake.