

Global iNSIGHT



November 2023

Multiplying Disciple Makers

Reaching Muslims

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Islam, Muslims, and Open Doors

As Muhammad was receiving his first revelation in 610 AD, he was convinced that he was having an encounter with a demon. No one could change his mind on this until his wife had her cousin, a Christian leader, tell Muhammad that his experience was just like that of Moses, and that Muhammad was truly a prophet of God.

Muhammad began preaching the oneness of God (“Allah” in Arabic) in pagan Mecca and was largely rejected. He believed he was the successor to the prophets of the Bible and expected nearby Jewish clans to accept him. They rejected his claims to prophet-hood, which resulted in their demise at that time and Islam’s ongoing antagonism against Jews.

Muhammad’s misunderstandings of Christianity and many of the narratives of the Bible strongly influenced the revelations he received. The same goes for Muslims up until today.



Islam: The Doctrine

The most significant doctrine of Islam is the oneness of God, and the greatest sin in Islam is to associate partners with God. But Islam and Muslims reject

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the Trinity because the Quran teaches that it is either tri-theism or a partnership of Allah, Jesus and Mary.

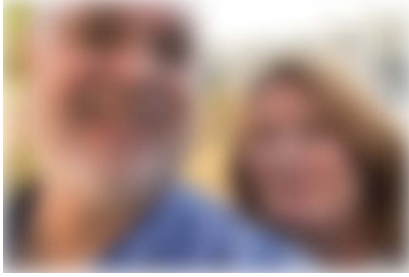
Muslims also reject Jesus as the “Son of God” because it was revealed to Muhammad that this expression means Jesus was born as the result of a physical, sexual relationship between

Allah and Mary. These inaccuracies and many more were revealed to Muhammad and are genuinely core aspects and understandings of the Quran and Islam. This alone is a convincing proof that Muhammad was not a genuine prophet, nor was the Quran revealed by the God of the Bible.

There is much in Islam that inoculates Muslims from our standard ways of presenting the Gospel. But there are also elements of Islam, including most Muslims’ culture and worldview, that provide open doors to proclaiming Jesus and remaining faithful to God’s word. These open doors, and zealous hearts to reach Muslims, are moving iTEE Global to develop a course to equip Christian leaders and disciples in Muslim contexts to effectively proclaim the love, life and message of Jesus Christ to Muslims.

A Missionary To Muslims

Mark



Since being called to reach out to Muslims, Mark and his wife Michele had worked for sixteen years in a Chicago immigrant neighborhood of Muslims, and

Hindus from India and Pakistan, one and a half years in Jordan with Jordanians and Syrian refugees, then almost six years serving in a Muslim village west of Jerusalem.

When their visas in Israel were unlikely to be renewed, they prayed for next steps. They learned about iTEE Global and its passion for multiplying disciple-makers. After further investigation, it was clear that iTEE Global, although working globally, didn't have a ministry focus on pastoral leaders among Muslim populations. Enticed by the possibility to be part of iTEE Global with the emphasis in Muslim communities, and trusting God for guidance, Mark felt the Holy Spirit leading him in that direction. He then prayerfully joined iTEE Global.

God's Heart for Muslims

During a trip to Africa in September 2023, two iTEE Global leaders met with Mark and 63 pastors who serve in an area with a high concentration of Muslims. At this pastors' network meeting, it was evident that iTEE Global relationally-driven biblical ministry education



was highly desired and could be offered to these pastors. They knew what their communities needed, and loved iTEE Global's passion for multiplying disciple-makers.

Toward the end of their presentation, George Law, iTEE Global's president, asked Mark to share about his own passion and what he does. Mark has lived among Muslims; he knows, and has heard before that many Christian leaders are frustrated for being ineffective in reaching Muslims with the Gospel. He shared his passion but also a brief but significant idea on how to reach out to Muslims more effectively. He concluded with some verses from the Quran where Muhammad said that he was unsure of his own eternal destiny as well as that of those who follow him (Sura 46:8-9).

The pastors' response was almost electric. They were so hungry for hope and real strategies in reaching Muslims. They were also eager to know if iTEE Global had a course available for them to take on the subject. With such recognizable demand, Mark is working to create a course. It will be for these pastors in Muslim communities, and for other disciple-makers in Muslim contexts around the world.

Success With Partners

Willow Resource



The gospel has been rapidly spreading across Uganda. Praise God for such growth! However, until recent years, the church in Uganda has had no way to keep up. Resources and discipleship training were just too shallow. In 2020, several church leaders in Masaka, Uganda, and Atlantic Beach, FL joined forces to create Willow Resource Foundation, as a registered NGO in Uganda and a Non-profit in the USA. The Board of Directors in both countries are committed to the vision and work of the ministry,

to reverse the lack of training in pastoral ministry. Their vision is to see followers of Jesus growing in wisdom, love, and influence for the glory of God and the mission of his church.

In 2021, Willow Resource Foundation partnered with iTEE Global, to strengthen their vision by offering relationally-driven, Biblical, ministry and leadership education. Together, both organizations make disciples who will make disciples. At the Willow Resource Center, pastors, students, musicians, youth, business owners, moms and dads, entrepreneurs, neighbors and friends come to learn, to dream, to network and to grow together. Currently, twenty students are taking courses directly through Willow, and several more through iTEE University, to earn a certificate, diploma, or

degree. There is a noticeable change in the lives of people who have taken courses; they have a better understanding of the Word of God, a vastly improved spiritual life, and even family life. Willow hopes to enroll fifty students in iTEE University by the end of 2023 with the overall goal of helping students reach their full potential in Christ and

make transformed disciples who make disciples. Most students become great teachers of the Word and are better able to defend their faith. One student named Deduina said, "My understanding about marriage changed, and I have a better picture of marriage after taking the Foundations of Christian Marriage Course."

Heart for African Leaders

Joseph



Today in Nairobi, Kenya, there is a wonderful man of God named Joseph. He is a scholar, a well-trained minister of the gospel, and a key leader of iTEE Global. However, before discussing anything else, Joseph would first introduce his family.

He would mention his mother, who unfortunately suffered from a stroke in 2016. Then, he would mention his wife of 19 years, Caroline, and his three children: Genesis Zawadi, Princess Iman, and Joseph Jr., called JJ.

In fact, in these current days, Joseph's heart has been with his family members who have been sick. As Joseph has requested, we are praying for them. May the Lord himself, our God of peace and renewal, strengthen them all.

In terms of education and ministry, a traditional path has worked well for Joseph. He began full-time ministry as a music minister, shortly after graduating from the Jesus Celebration Center School of Ministry in Mombasa, Kenya. He later pursued a Master of Divinity in Leadership Studies at Nairobi International Leadership University so that he could focus on pastoral ministry. He served as an adjunct professor at different universities before heading up the Department of Intercultural Studies of Kenya's Assemblies of God East University. He is currently a PhD student at Bakke Graduate University.

However, similar to how he puts his family first, Joseph will do anything he can to train up his students. He recognizes that although a traditional path of education has worked for him, most Kenyans lack access to pastoral education. For many years, he has sensed God's call on his life to help leaders know how to love and serve the Lord Jesus

through diligent study in the Word of God. This is a key reason why he loves serving with iTEE Global. It's educational arm, iTEE University, takes the classroom to the students. Since 2018, Joseph has been leading the work for iTEE University in East Africa.

In early 2020, just before Kenya's COVID-19 lockdown, Joseph started his first two cohorts. These 50-some pastors came from two rural areas. They could barely afford to pay for their course books, and most could not contribute to paying for the gas Joseph needed to drive over two hours each way to meet with them. Most students did not have smartphones. Hence, online study was not possible.



Nonetheless, God was able to use Joseph's resolve, humility, and deep love for these leaders to motivate them to persevere. What's more, this beloved leader and teacher faced a series of physical illnesses that could have taken his life. As prayers across the world cried out for him, he continued to call his students from his hospital bed, encouraging and guiding them in their studies. He was also able to tell them how God was supplying peace and the finances needed to pay his medical bills. What a powerful testimony for his students!

So powerful was his testimony that 28 of his first 50 students graduated from the Certificate of Christian Ministry program in 2022. These 28 also multiplied themselves and trained over 100 others in their region. Also, of the 28, 14 received their Diploma

of Christian Ministry this year. These men and women, equipped with the Word of God and trained for discipling others, are already committed to diligently training other leaders in their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth.

In the past three years, God has used Joseph and his wife Caroline to start eight more cohorts of students and recruit and prepare nine master trainers. They are equipping pastors who previously had no access to training because of language barriers, affordability, and training limitations of traditional educational institutions. It is now possible for bi-vocational pastors to serve churches while holding down full-time jobs and receive biblical ministry training. Joseph and Caroline anticipate that there will be 150 students by the end of 2023.

One of the most recent cohorts Joseph has started is among pastors located in Muslim-majority areas within Kenya. These pastors are eager to learn how to better communicate the gospel and how

to disciple their neighbors to become the next generation of missionaries to their own people.



Diploma in Ministry graduation, Kenya 2023

Little did Joseph know how much God would do in and through his life. Joseph has truly been a transformational spiritual champion of God's grace to the church. He is blessing the church in Kenya and East Africa as well across the nations. Thank you, Joseph, for giving to the Lord. We all have been impacted by your love, your leadership, and your steadfast faith. We continue to pray the Lord blesses you, your family, and your many pastoral students.

October Ministry Opportunities

Fund Development Administrator

Acquire funding for the ministry of iTEE Global; through writing grants, proposals, donor relations, and strategic partnerships.

Communications Director

Communicate with external audiences by designing and implementing the necessary internal structures, and resources.

VP of Global Training

President of iTEE University

Manages, leads, oversees, and directs all training efforts for iTEE University. Oversees training of Global Trainers and Master Trainers, ensuring multigenerational impact.

Contact: HRinfo@iteeg.org

Prayer Points

Please join us in prayer for:

- Facilitators and students in persecuted areas in Myanmar, Pakistan, and India.
- Successful partnerships with organizations and churches, locally and internationally.
- God to bless and protect iTEE Global donors and their families.
- iTEE University students, to be encouraged, and complete their work.

Send your personal prayer requests for our staff to pray for you, pray@iteeg.org

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