

Dear friends, I hope you are well. In this newsletter I will report on three projects, ministry, family, and give part 2 of what the Qur'an says about the Bible and why it matters. I hope you find it encouraging and will pray about these things.

PROJECTS

A project completed - Last newsletter I wrote about Wenslaus Wekesa Simiyu. He is a Kenyan evangelist and pastor who I trust. Thank you to those who contributed towards supplying him with Swahili Bibles. The Bible Society has

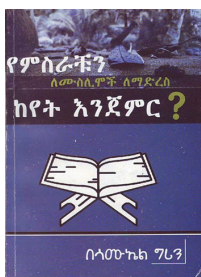


delivered 150. He writes that most Christians in the villages have never touched a Bible and now they have one. These will help strengthen his church and bring the gospel to the Muslims around him.



A project progressing - A common Islamic belief is that Jesus only appeared to be crucified and die. As you can imagine, this belief hinders Muslims accepting the gospel. In February 2019 I wrote about how a strong case can be made that the Qur'an is not denying the historical crucifixion but rather describing Jesus as a martyr. It is one of my projects to promote this idea to the Islamic world. I have had several major successful debates showing this and the next stage is to write an evangelistic booklet that Christians can use. This booklet is now finished and has gone through much peer review. It is attached to this newsletter and here engagingwithislam.org/leaflets/crucifixion.pdf Please read it and tell me what you think. It is also the lead article on answering-islam.org The next stage of the project is to translate this idea into the top 20 Muslim languages.

A new project - The International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) in Indonesia has been reading my book and they wish to translate it into Bahasa. It was translated into Amharic in 2018, so praise God that it is going into more languages. I have to update the text a bit with new material.



Please give thanks and pray for these projects.

FAMILY

My son Jordan was bushwalking with some friends recently when they came across a man requiring CPR. They gave him CPR for quite a while but he died. My son was shaken by this and I have talked through the event with him. He is glad that he could be of help and comfort to this family. We were all reminded of our mortality and our need to put our faith in Christ.

MINISTRY

This year I have been running the Engaging with Islam training for the Townsville university campus, and I have just returned from teaching a one and half day Islam intensive at the Worldview missionary training college in Launceston.

Access Truth is a training organisation that equips missionaries with specific information for their field. Recently, I spoke at their annual conference and stayed for an extra day to record a video training series. Here it is.

<https://accesstruth.com/series/looking-at-islam/>

The University of Tasmania is moving from Sandy Bay to the Hobart CBD across the next ten years. This is going to change the nature of the campus ministry. Please pray that we can adapt to this new environment.

I recently had a debate with Shabir Ally on the topic of *A Qur'anic View of the Bible*.



<https://youtu.be/I2xNIsBAiMk>

I will share more about this in the following article.

WHAT DOES THE QUR'AN SAY ABOUT THE BIBLE? #2

In my last newsletter I showed how the Qur'an presents itself as an Arabic explanation of the Bible for the Muslim community, and it commands everyone to treat the Bible as the reliable word of God. But there are negative statements which Muslims often quote which they claim prove the Bible is corrupted. We will now look at an example from sura 3 of the Qur'an.

The Accusation

There is among them [Christians] a section who distort the Book with their tongues: you would think it is a part of the Book, but it is no part of the Book; and they say, "That is from God," but it is not from God: It is they who tell a lie against God, and they know it! (Q3:78)

And remember God took a covenant from the People of the Book, to make it known and clear to mankind, and not to hide it; but they threw it away behind their backs, and purchased with it some miserable gain! (Q3:187)

From verses like these, Muslims claim that the Qur'an is saying that the Bible is corrupt, but notice what the verses actually say. They say that Christians and Jews hide the message of their scripture and try to make profit from it. This is referring to the explanation of the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Arabic. It never says that the text of the Bible has been changed but it is critical of the accuracy of the explanation and the behaviour of some Christians and Jews.

If we read the rest of sura 3, what application does it give towards the Bible?

Say: "We believe in God, and in what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and in (the Books) given to Moses, Jesus, and the prophets, from their Lord: We make no distinction between one and another among them." (Q3:84)

The application the Qur'an gives is that no distinction is to be made between any of the holy books! And Christians and Jews are to bring the proof for their beliefs from the Bible.

Say, "Bring the Torah and recite it if you tell the truth. (Q3:93)

You cannot make this request if the Bible is unreliable. Elsewhere, the Qur'an says that no one can change the word of God.

He who has sent down to you the Scripture set out distinctly ... The Word of your Lord is perfect in truth and justice. There is no one who can change His words. (Q6:114-115)
And Muhammad respected the Bible this way.

Narrated Abdullah Ibn Umar: A group of Jews came and invited the Apostle of Allah to Quff. So he visited them in their school. ... They placed a cushion for the Apostle of Allah who sat on it and said: Bring the Torah. It was then brought. He then withdrew the cushion from beneath him and placed the Torah on it saying: I believed in thee and in Him Who revealed thee. (*Sunan Abu Dawud*: 4449; bk. 38, no. 4434)

So why do Muslim leaders attack the Bible? Because they have a problem. The problem is that the Qur'an says you can know it is from God because it confirms the teaching of the Bible, and because Muhammad is foretold in the Bible. However, none of these are true. So how do Muslim leaders solve this problem? They blame Christians and accuse us of changing the Bible. Muslims should not blame Christians for the failure of Muhammad's words, instead, they should take this matter up with Muhammad. This is one of the ways that we can know that Islam is not true.

But what the Qur'an says about the Bible does give us an opportunity to talk about the Bible, because we can point to these verses and ask why they do not believe what they say? The Qur'an says the Bible is the reliable word of God that Christians and Muslims are to consult to know the truth of God. This is what Muslims are meant to believe.

PARTNERSHIP IN THIS WORK

Thank you very much for your support of this ministry. We are partners in this work. There is still much work to be done and I need your partnership. Please consider supporting me in this work.

If you wish to receive this newsletter, or to support financially, use the links below.

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