

Review

Dreams and Visions: Is Jesus Awakening the Muslim World?

Tom Doyle with Greg Webster
Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2012.

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This outstanding book is built around a series of accounts of dreams, visionary encounters, and dynamic healings from Isa al Masih that Muslims—including some in Mecca, Saudi Arabia itself—have experienced that has drawn them to Christ. Tom Doyle summarizes these stories:

About a decade ago, those of us who work in Muslim outreach started to hear about something new in the world of Islam. God was opening the closed hearts of Muslims by giving them spectacular dreams and visions. At first, the stories were rare, but today...[they] have become a common occurrence. We find that about one out of every three Muslim-background believers has had a dream or vision prior to their salvation experience. Some more precise surveys...suggest a little over 25 percent of Muslims had a dream or a vision before becoming disciples of Jesus. Either way, the percentage is significant. As powerful as [they]...are, though, they are just the door opener for most Muslims, the starting point for conversion (Doyle 2012, 127).

Doyle's stories are documented with careful attention to detail, cultural and historical context of Islam in the Middle East, and how Muslim's treat those who have apostatized by trusting in Isa. In Chapter 5 "A Martyr's Final Poem" he shares an account of a Muslim girl in Saudi Arabia who became active on a Middle Eastern internet forum that answered questions of seekers. Her brother discovered she was a follower of Isa and murdered her. Doyle implies that this kind of honor killing is common throughout the Middle East.

In Chapter 7 “One Tough Burka” he shares the account is of a burka-bound, but model-beautiful agent named “Dina” belonging to the Iranian morality police. She came to know Isa through seeing God work in those she targeted for persecution, through a patient Iranian believer who broadcasts Christian TV into Iran, and the wonderful healing of her mother that prevented a joint suicide with her mom.

Co-writer, Greg Webster, and Doyle have painted many vivid pictures and action scenes that the volume reads like a well-written novel. This I greatly appreciated because each story, building upon the prior accounts, definitely inspired me to invest more time in prayer and action to see the Muslim world disciplined for our Lord and King. What is quite interesting is that Tom Doyle is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, which is not known for encouraging such dynamic encounters with our Lord’s extra-ordinary power. Tom Doyle was the Middle Eastern branch director for North Africa and the Middle East (now Vice President) of e3 Partners with many years of experience both working with Jews and Muslims in the Middle East. I highly recommend this book especially for those who doubt that God can work in such ways in the contemporary world but also for any person who has a heart for God’s mission to the world.