

WHICH WITNESSES AND METHODS DID THE LORD JESUS USE TO CALL MANY MUSLIMS TO HIMSELF?

Fifty years ago it was still a rare miracle if a Muslim would consciously become a Christian and actively serve his Lord and saviour. Today in an age of modern media within a multicultural society there are dozens and more Muslims to be found who have become firm Christians.

Our report does not intend to devalue the devote ministry of many medical doctors and nurses in mission hospitals and clinics or to question the ministry of big and old mission schools where often 80% and more of the pupils are Muslims. The reason why Muslims are attracted by these Christian institutions is because they know that they are treated justly and faithfully at these institutions. Also, like everywhere else in the ministry among the disciples of Muhammad, quality is more important than quantity. A genuine, slowly growing conversion of a Muslim is in many cases more sustainable and resistible in persecutions from fundamentalist minded Muslims than emotional and enthusiastic conversions toward Jesus.

In this context it is a fact that in some Islamic countries, under changing circumstances, through a few indigenous messengers of Jesus, many Muslims hear his word. They

criticize it, get answers and get born again slowly. The following report is no theoretical doctrine of missions but a factual report from 50 years of ministry in Islamic countries.

MOROCCO

From this kingdom with its Atlas Mountains of 4.000 metres altitude and the long cedar forests, a Berber believer in Christ came to a Bible School of the Baptists in Lebanon. He completed a three-year education and returned back to his home country. Five years later we visited him and asked him how his ministry was doing. "Not so well!" was his answer, "if I talk to the Muslims like I have learned in Bible School, not one of them will understand me. Then I speak in foreign tongues!" When we asked him what he was doing now, he said: „I translate everything I would like to tell them from the Bible into their language and their dialect and I try to be one of them!“ "Excellent!" we answered him, "already Luther had said: "You have to look at the people's mouth" and speak in their language, otherwise they will not understand us! Is your proclamation successful in this way?" "Hardly", he said: "The Muslims do not understand the Christian vocabulary. Although the same or similar words are written in the Quran, in

Islam they have a different content than in the gospel.” When we asked further: “What then do you do in this confusion of languages?”, he answered: “I have selected 50 important verses from the Bible. When I get in contact with a Muslim, I talk to him about one of these verses and I repeat this verse as often as possible during our conversation. When he has heard it four or five times he will keep it in his memory but he will not understand it fully. After some days I will visit him again and ask him whether he still knows what we have talked about last time. When he then quotes the verse and explains what he has understood, I teach him the next verse in the same manner. This way, with individual Bible verses I slowly build up in him the house of his faith and his love.”

The Moroccan counselor explained to us that for many Muslims the faith does not enter from head to heart but rather from the emotional to the conscious. They first need to memorize a verse by heart and slowly understand its content before they can believe in it. Logic comes in Islam often in second place. First there is the feeling, then the will and finally the thinking. A Muslim needs to feel that we take him seriously, respect and love him. Then his heart opens up and his senses begin to absorb what has been said. The Moroccan evangelist who had formerly been a Muslim himself, has won many Muslims for Jesus over the years and also baptized them.

Today there are over one thousand converts in about 40 house groups in this country, which is 25% larger in territory than Germany. These

groups have not yet been recognized by the Moroccan government, which is centered around their king. Therefore they are in danger of being persecuted or closed.

EGYPT

Egypt with a population of about 70 Million appears to be a moderate Islamic country where a minority of 10 Million Coptic Christians live and suffer as a remnant from early Christianity. The government declares that they are only 7%, however, the orthodox, catholic and protestant churches estimate them at 17%. Churches and monasteries have the freedom to hold intramural worship services and congregations. However, missions activity among Muslims is not only unwanted but prohibited and it is being closely observed by secret service officers.

Nevertheless there are amazing conversions and baptisms of Muslims, both with the orthodox Coptics and with various denominations of Protestants. The majority of priests and Pastors, however, stays away from the Muslims so that they may not be expelled from their country themselves, or their churches being attacked or closed down. Some of them, however, became points of contact for interested Muslims, and they gave them clear pastoral answers.

A high officer approached a protestant pastor, saying that he wanted to become a Christian and asking for baptism. The pastor did not know whether this man has been sent to him as a spy, so he recommended that he should remain a Muslim, in order not to harm himself or the church. The officer, however,

straightened himself up and said: "When I come to you and say: I want to become a Christian, then I know what I am doing." "Good", the pastor answered, "then I ask you to sign a certificate for me with the following wording", and he dictated him: "I, the undersigned, demand in full consciousness and by my own will, against the recommendation of the Pastor and without receiving any financial reward, that I will be baptized and received as a Christian into the protestant church!" The officer went through all lessons of the catechetical teaching together with the other candidates for baptism. Shortly before his baptism, however, the Pastor asked him: "Now tell me frankly why you want to become a Christian?" The officer smiled and responded that he obtained insight into the statistics of his country concerning the offences and crimes. He had calculated that the highest percentage of prisoners were Muslims, followed by orthodox Coptics, but only few of the prisoners were Protestants. These must have a higher morality than the other Egyptians. He wanted to achieve the same high ethical level as they demonstrated!" He was baptized in the name of the triune God and became a faithful member of the church. The pastor, who himself had studied Islam before, has baptized hundreds of converts over the years, even without having approached or evangelized them. They came to him out of their own initiative, because of the respected institution of his church and because of his friendly wisdom which became well known publicly.

This pastor had asked the secret service that they give him a written

permission to reprint an old book, "The Life of Jesus", as a harmony of the Gospels. After a long discussion he was required to mention his name as the author and the address of his church in the book, so that he could be held liable in case of public criticism. This ridiculed "book of the week" sold over 20.000 copies by a newspaper in their 900 selling booths, about half of them to Muslims. The written answers to the contests in this book became so numerous that nine secretaries had to be employed.

A dynamic Coptic Priest baptized several hundred converts, giving them new names and providing them with the necessary documents. However, one night he was taken to jail together with other priests. Finally he was brought in iron chains to a plane and was expelled from the country. Nowadays he is trying to reach out to Muslims via Sat-TV by revealing to them questionable and embarrassing Traditions of Muhammad with the aim of shaking the faith of the Muslim viewers in their prophet. Unfortunately, the result is contra productive. He has constantly to change his residence in the West in order not to become the aim of a Muslim liquidation commando.

The approach of the coptic Patriarch Schenuda III is quite different. He conducts public question-and-answers-meetings in his cathedral in Cairo which Gamal Abd al-Nasser had formerly allowed to be built, against the law of Islamic Sharia. The Patriarch had written himself an answer against the Islamic criticism of the holy trinity. He answers on the microphone in front of thousands

of standing listeners difficult and dangerous questions with authority, knowledge of the Bible and popular cleverness. When he asked his audience on one occasion about their religious and church affiliation, he found out that about 20% of them were Muslims. He is one of the most active witnesses of Christ in the world of Islam. Through his public answers in direct contact with hundreds of Muslims he proclaims to them the unabridged gospel. When we asked him, however, whether it is true that every year more than ten thousand orthodox Coptics in Egypt become Muslims, he grimly answered: "We have baptized all of them. They always remain Christians, even during temptation."

SUDAN

In a village in the middle of Sudan the Muslim Sheikh Abdallah began to read the Books of Moses and the New Testament in Arabic. He was impressed by the power of their words and he tried to understand the three religions as a unity. Some Muslims agreed with his views, others persecuted him, drowned two of his children in a cistern and torched houses of his followers. This group of seeking Muslims escaped with their families to Wad Medani where they were baptized by a Catholic priest, but without further instruction. They initially studied the understanding of the Ten Commandments of Judaism and they kept the Sabbath, circumcision and other laws. Elia, a young man of that tribe, was called to teach their children reading and writing. The Sheikh gave them the Gospel of John so that he should teach the children important verses for memorization from it. Through

this Gospel, Elia himself became a believer in Jesus and developed into a quiet, inconspicuous counselor of the tribe.

Through his ministry, about 80 of these children of the persecuted tribe were sponsored by prayer partners in Europe to attend a Protestant elementary and middle school where they learned Christian songs which they liked to sing. About 30 of them later joined a three-year Bible school of the Reformed Arab Church through the mediation of Elia. At first this school did not teach on the Sabbath because of the Jewish thinking of these students. Later, however, the gospel of Jesus Christ has set them free from their desire for justification through the keeping of the Law of Moses. Today there are 30 former Muslims working as trained evangelists, both men and women who are, however, rarely employed because most churches in Sudan are split up according to the more than 100 languages of the country. The few Arabic speaking churches do not want to employ former Muslims as leading pastors or evangelists because they distrust them for fear of an Islamic influence.

In the Darfur region another unexpected development happened. This is a fertile oasis area where hundreds of thousands of black refugees found shelter. However, land and water sources were no longer sufficient for them, therefore Arabic speaking militia began to chase away the intruders in a brutal way. Because of this, an evangelist of the Dinka tribe was able to plant three churches of former black Muslims with 80, 100 and 120 members in

the area of Niyala. Since the Arabic speaking brown Muslims do not accept their black brothers as genuine Muslims and rather treat them as slaves, they preferred to become Christians. However, they live in an area of high tension, not knowing whether they will live tomorrow.

LEBANON

Fifty years ago, this small Arabic state (fathered in Rome and born in Paris after World War II) had a Christian majority of 60%. In the meantime Christians are only 20% of the population of the country. Through an Arabic literature mission and in cooperation with two radio stations, many Muslims have been contacted in the Islamic world who began reading and listening to daily Bible devotional messages. Through this ministry, many questions, criticisms and curses came up. Iskandar Jaded, an Arabic pastor and convert from Islam and who was a descendant of a leading political family in Syria, dealt with the reactions of these readers and answered their questions with great patience and wrote some 3.000 letters every year. In his letters he showed the Muslims how the Qur'an and the traditions of Muhammad contradict themselves regarding most issues, then he led the questioning people to the unabrogated Bible and answered them objectively, extensively and without spiritual bias. When certain questions regarding the genuineness of the Bible, the deity of Christ, his crucifixion, the Holy Trinity and other themes were constantly repeated, his letters were summarized in little booklets and then translated into more than 20 languages. His writings are until today

a tremendous help in dialogue with Muslims because Islam and Christianity are not played off against each other in a self-righteous way. Instead, a father in Christ is writing to his interested or aggressive children about what Jesus has done for them, whether they know it or not. He has reached ten thousands of Muslims with the words of his love, thus inspiring other servants of Christ in their ministry.

Ibrahim was an old evangelist. When he was riding with other passengers in a public taxi and watching the snow on the mountains of Lebanon, he would say: „So white and clean like this snow should our hearts look like. But they are covered with many dirty spots. Your heart must be cleansed quickly, not with washing powder or medicine but with holy blood. Christ, the lamb of God, has died for you so that you may receive a clean heart.”

When a gipsy woman in the street was trying to read for Ibrahim his future from his palm, he quickly took her hand and said: “I can predict the future for you! On this one side, there is a line coming up which talks about your strong life. But as a parallel, there is also another line going downward. You are headed for hell because of your many sins! However”, he said after a short break, “from your heart there is a strong line coming which crosses both parallel lines: In the cross of Christ there is your only hope! Only his cross can save you!” The fortune-teller became very pale, walking away silently and looking again over her shoulder back to him.

So Ibrahim was able to move forward very quickly with his proclamation from a given situation into the center of the gospel. He won a Bedouin Sheikh for Jesus and visited his tribe. When he asked the Muslims who were sitting around the coffee fireplace after a devotional message in a tent to answer the message they have heard with a prayer, they told him: "We do not know how to pray freely!" "Don't worry", he answered, "I pray first and then you can repeat after me. This way, you will also learn to speak to God, your father!", and so it happened solemnly. The son of the Sheikh was connected to a Christian school so that he later on opened his own mission school for Bedouin children. However, when he died prematurely, one of his sons, who was already rooted in the gospel, took over this small school with 100 Muslim children and opened a small church center next to it. This ministry lasted for three generations. Today Bedouins from other tribes are sending their children to the followers of Christ because at this place their children will not be educated to become suicide bombers as in Qur'an schools.

INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

In the Indian subcontinent with more than a Billion population there are around 140 Million Muslims. They are not particularly liked by the Hindus. That is why missions among Muslims is not strictly forbidden in India. The Muslims are concentrated in certain areas of the subcontinent as a result of historical developments. In the south, at the Malabar Coast of Kerala, 20% of the population are Muslims. K.K. Alavi, the son of a Muslim Sheikh, became a

Christian through reading the Book of the Heart which was also translated into the Malayalam language. His father beat him in anger in order to rescue him from the seduction of the Christians. As a result, his son could only walk limping. However, K.K. Alavi remained faithful to Jesus despite many persecutions, received a Lutheran theological education, but was not willing to serve as a pastor among Hindu Christians but went back at his own responsibility to the area of the Mapala Muslims. A great measure of blessing, temptations and treachery by co-workers overwhelmed him. Fanatic Muslims attempted several times to kill him and they tried to put him on trial nine times which he always won.

After a forced pause in his mission's ministries he began again to print advertisements in Islamic newspapers. He asked questions like: "Is the technical development of our time predicted in the Quran?" or "Was Christ really crucified?" He received 90.000 (!) seriously interested enquiries from Muslims in response to these advertisements, so he sent relevant books to the enquirers; he formed active teams from trained church members and converts, sending them to those enquirers who had given their full address. These friends discovered during their visits that quite a few Muslims were ready to think about Christ, to believe in him and to trust in him, especially since in the Quran a hundred verses talk about the Son of Mary. But hardly anyone was willing to confess his faith in Christ publicly because then they would be expelled and disinherited from their clans.

This is the same result as in a poll in West Africa among hundreds of asking and interested Muslims. Some of them are willing to listen to the gospel, to think about it and to believe in the resurrected Christ. However, the unavoidable break with the clan prevents them to dare the decisive step. Missions work in an Islamic environment is sometimes not an intellectual problem but oftentimes fails because of the social inhibition of the obligation towards the family and clan. Whoever wants to release Muslims in the name of Jesus from their Islamic “We-community” should prepare for them beforehand a spiritual church family as a new nest into which they can grow and who take on the educational and human responsibility. K.K. Alavi has understood this task and tries to mobilize and train church leaders and elders so that they be prepared to receive converts from Islam, to provide them with work, spouses and to lead them to maturity in Christ.

In northern India an Islam of Asian influence expanded under the Moghuls, dominating the Ganges valley and other regions south of the Himalaya mountains for 230 years (1526–1757 AD). In Delhi a Bengali speaking Muslim became a Christian and accepted the name “the Happiest of Christ” at his baptism. He soon recognized that Jesus wanted to send him among the 75 million Bengali people in India. However, he realized that many of them in Uttar Pradesh were poor and illiterate. They lived in the slums of large cities and were suffering hunger. So only a few were listening to him. When he started evening classes for illiterate people in order to teach them

Bengali, Hindi and Urdu, many came to the lessons and accepted the devotional messages at the end of the lessons in these languages. Later he established “First Aid courses” because hardly anyone was familiar with hygiene, vitamins and folk medicine. When the Muslims recognized that this man did not only talk but helped them in a practical way, quite a few came to attend his Bible studies which frequently led to baptisms of Bengali people.

When his small community attracted more and more interested people, he developed a course for asking Muslims according to European pattern. First he studied with the Muslims the Christology of the Quran because most of them had hardly any idea about what was written in their venerated book about Christ. Soon also teachers of the Quran and Arab speaking preachers of the Mosque joined the group and were amazed to hear from him precise interpretations from the Quran in Bengali or Urdu. When he had finished these preparatory lessons he began to teach his audience the life and teaching of Jesus according to the New Testament. This resulted in a lot of indignation and a small riot. But he told them: “We live in a multi-cultural society. Everyone needs to know what the other thinks and believes. I have explained to you the Quran. When you are smart, you will also learn what the Bible says about Jesus. Only the stupid and ignorant close themselves from the truth.” And behold, most of them trusted him and participated in the careful study of Jesus Christ. Several Muslim leaders were among the listeners. They wanted to know whether

and how he would seduce those who trusted him.

The result of these series of Bible studies at different locations was an awakening and a small revival among the Bengali people in Delhi and in the Ganges valley. The number of baptisms grew because many had understood, "Jesus is the Lord and Saviour. He lives! Muhammad, however, is dead. Whoever trusts in the one who is born from the Spirit of God and his love, will be guided rightly." Even preachers of the Mosque had themselves baptized. The number of baptized people has exceeded the number 9.000 in the meantime. Since, however, the already existing Christian churches in the Ganges valley speak mostly Urdu or Hindi, the Bengali people had to gather in 240 house groups. This required an intensive training of leaders for the home Bible groups, so the help of external helpers and lecturers becomes necessary. Also the financial burdens could no longer be carried by "the Happiest of Christ" all by himself. So he has invited various missions organizations from abroad to support social or evangelistic sections of his ministry. This Indian movement is subject to perilous temptation and error, but at the same time it is a sign that missions among Muslims in India is possible today and can be fruitful.

BANGLADESH

In the densely populated delta of the rivers Brahmaputra and Ganges live over 150 million Muslims on a gross national product of 440 US Dollars per year and capita, which equals a value of one Euro per capita per day. Most of them are desperately poor.

That is why missions among Muslims is unwanted but not radically prohibited.

In Dhaka with its ten million inhabitants a missions team from Switzerland was singing songs of Jesus in English in the overcrowded streets of the city. A sergeant of the army by the name of Wahhab was fascinated by the blond girl but could not understand what it meant when they were always singing about "Jesus". She tried to explain to him in broken English the name of Jesus, but in vain. Then the team leader gave him the address of a Bible school in Bangladesh which sent him distance learning courses about Jesus. He studied them and became a Christian.

With the help of a local medical doctor, Wahhab opened a jungle clinic after completing his service in the army. He installed First-Aid courses. However, it did not take long for fanatic Muslims to attack and torch his bamboo huts. So he opened a small Bible school in Dhaka with four students. Their day was organized according to military rules. The number of interested "students" increased because their lunch and dinner meals were free of charge. But the participants were required to memorize many Bible verses by heart and then go to the city streets in the evening and talk to the pedestrians about what they had read, heard and prayed about during daytime.

Occasionally when expatriate guest speakers come, up to a hundred interested Muslims are invited into a restaurant to listen to lectures. After the lectures there is heavy discus-

sion about Jesus in the Quran and in the Bible. Sometimes it happens that Wahhab interrupts the discussion after several hours by asking all of them: "Who of you would like to become a Christian right now?" If a dozen of them was ready for it, he would greet and dismiss the others friendly until the next meeting. Then he would teach the chosen ones separately and then baptize them in the bath tub of a rented apartment. When he is accused of baptizing too soon in an irresponsible way, he smiles and says: "In my Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) it is written: Make everyone disciples, then baptize them and instruct them only afterwards. But you always want first to teach the interested and to baptize them only when they have become conscious Christians. This is not biblical. I integrate the newly baptized into my Bible school where they will be introduced into the Bible in a one-month intensive course. Then I dismiss them as friends and voluntary helpers."

The rigorous methods of Wahhab were disliked by the expatriate organization which supported him. They dismissed him and his 70 co-workers. But he was required after a legal trial to pay compensation to all of his co-workers by means of an expensive bank loan. The Muslims smiled at this shock and offered him to cover all his debts if he was willing to accept Islam again and confess it publicly. But he remained faithful to Jesus in this temptation for many years. By selling two thirds of his remaining premises to a Chinese company he was able to pay his debts and to reopen his small Bible school.

At a short seminar in his center with about 50 Muslims, the first day was like talking against a cold concrete wall. The Biblical explanations on the second day slowly raised interest. The listeners noticed that the speakers loved them and did not ridicule Islam. The final Bible studies brought a breakthrough: A 60-year-old man said radiantly: "If this is the real faith that you receive all blessings of heaven and the salvation of God for free and nobody needs fasting, pilgrimage, paying religious taxes and fighting in Holy War in order to enter paradise, but only to believe in Jesus and to accept what grace God has presented to him, then it is glorious and liberating!" He said this in front of all participants and opened a valve for questions, criticisms and confessions.

INDONESIA

In the country of 13.677 islands, a thousand of them being inhabitable, and a high rising chain of 250 volcanoes, a dozen of them being active, live more than 200 million Muslims. Indonesia is the largest Islamic country in terms of the population. At independence day on 17. August 1945, Islam (87%), Hinduism (2-3%), Buddhism (1-2%), Catholics (3-4%) and Protestants (6-9%) were confirmed as religions accepted by the government because they believe in a "Deity". This multicultural concession is presently being undermined by fundamentalist minded Muslims with shrewdness and power. They grow steadily because every year around one thousand Indonesian students are sent for studies at Islamic universities in Arab countries. They get charged with militant ideals of the Islamic reformation and upon

return they are being supported in their activities by oil-producing Arab countries. Several hundred churches or Buddhist temples have already been demolished or burnt by them. Nevertheless numerous protestant churches in this country are doing missions work. A group in Jakarta wanted to celebrate Christmas differently, rented a hall, prepared Indonesian food for the festive days and prayed in preparation of the mission. Then they went to the streets on Christmas Eve and invited whoever would come to the birth celebration of Christ. Three hundred Muslims came and celebrated the feast together with Christians because the birth of Christ is being mentioned twice in the Quran. There were friendly and heated conversations but without quarrel. Whoever wanted was allowed to spend the night in prepared rooms and then continue to celebrate during the following Christmas days, having a good meal. About one hundred guests confessed that they wanted to join this church.

We were asked to help conduct a service in a church at the outskirts of the city. This church, however, did not have any walls or windows but only a large roof. I was asked to preach about "Christ in the Quran" but I was hesitant because the sermon would be broadcast by loudspeakers from the roof across the neighborhood. Upon their request I agreed to present Christ in the Quran and in the gospel in this overcrowded church for one hour. Everyone was listening in attentive silence. At the end a lady approached me and told me that she had been a Muslim religious teacher at a gov-

ernment school. She had been asked to teach the return of Christ for the destruction of the Antichrist according to the traditions of Muhammad, but she had been upset because the son of Mary would come from heaven and not Muhammad. The latter was a fighter and winner but Jesus only a healer and law giver. She continued and said that she was scared and had wondered what this returning Christ as law-giver would demand from her and from other people. So she had bought a copy of the Gospels and read it in order to prepare herself for the coming of Jesus. She became overwhelmed by the spiritual greatness and authority of the Lamb of God. So today as a religious teacher in Christian schools she explains her Lord and Savior to the young people. I became quiet and understood that here a Muslim woman was converted by her faith in the return of Christ, but the majority of Christians does not prepare themselves for the coming of their Lord and judge!

In Jogjakarta the mixed culture of Indonesia becomes evident. A black Hindu temple made of hard lava stone is rising there, in nearby Borobudur there is a famous Buddhist temple area and in the city itself there is beside many Mosques a Christian university. There we were asked to give lectures about "Dialogue with Muslims about Christ". When we enquired about the situation of the students we were told that among the 800 students of this small university the majority were former Muslims and one third of them studied Christian theology. The president, a dean and the administrator of this university were also former Muslims. We felt a bit

discomforted by these reports and continued to ask how the conversions of so many Muslims could happen. The president smiled and said that his theology students do not get a diploma at the end of their studies unless they have planted a church with at least twelve converted Muslims somewhere in Indonesia. In their holidays they would go, pray, seek, talk, argue and struggle that they would slowly grow a small church. And behold, this way every year the graduates of the year would present about one thousand Muslims to be baptized. When I asked how long they already have this rough practice for training their students and graduates, he said 13 years. So when I asked whether this means that they had baptized 13.000 Muslims (!), he was astonished at my doubts and said yes! But we did not stop with our questions and said that the conversion of a Muslim to Christ in Arab countries or in Pakistan would lead in at least one third of the cases to persecution, punishment and danger of death. He answered that in Indonesia there is rarely danger of death for a convert, however, disinheritance and expulsion from the clan would happen again and again so that converts would sometimes become poor and lonely. Therefore churches are needed who support and sacrifice in order to receive the new brothers and sisters responsibly into the family of the children of God.

We had the opportunity of meeting an older experienced convert, the writer Hamran Ambrie in a suburb of Jakarta. He was a respected freedom fighter from the war of independence of Indonesia. During the

dire confrontations and combats he became aware of Christ with his message of peace, so he came closer to him. What hindered him, however, was the trinity of God in Christianity with its belief in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! That seemed to him according to the Quran an unforgivable blasphemy. But in the Gospel he discovered that Jesus testified: "I and the Father are one", – not two! (John 10:30). In addition, the Father was in him and he in the Father (John 14:10–11). This way Hamran slowly began to understand the Unity in the Trinity, especially since Jesus and the Father are equally called "Lord" in the Bible. He read too that the Almighty was "in" Christ and reconciled the world with himself (2 Corinthians 5:19). The unity of God seemed to be more evident to him than his plurality of three. So his faith in the savior and judge Jesus Christ was strengthened.

However, Hamran Ambrie did not want to be baptized because he loved his dear wife and his children and he did not want to divorce from them. If one of the marriage partners gets converted the other must divorce from the apostate partner according to Islamic law and the children belong only to the Muslim who remains faithful. But then Jesus did a miracle. His wife confessed to her husband that she too would like to have a Christmas tree for the birth festival of Christ, because this symbol of peace and light had filled her soul. When he coifessed to her his new faith, she revealed to him with tears, that she loves and trusts Jesus, the man of peace. So both of them were baptized, which caused an outcry among the people

and many friends quickly came to rescue the venerated freedom fighter and his family from the Christian aberration. However, both were humbly convinced of their new faith and used these many conversations and encounters as an opportunity for a clear and careful witnessing.

Both understood, however, that a conversion from Islam to Christianity can not take place on the intellectual level only because all areas of life are to be changed. So they opened a small Bible school for converts, not for singles but for married couples and their children in order to practice the life forms of Christ in their marriages. This did not only apply to a husband but also to his wife. The order of spiritual life, mutual forgiveness and respectful love in marriage are totally different in Christianity and in Islam. A wife and mother therefore needs just like her husband a reeducation and practice of her new life. Hamran Ambrie has understood a decisive part of the conversion of a Muslim to Christ and he has demanded to overcome the Islamic heritage in marriage. After his sudden death, Dr. Suradi took over the responsibility for this vision and the small Bible school for families. But he had to leave the country because of demonstrations of fundamentalist Muslims who had put his name on their blacklist.

SUMMARY

The reader of the Revelation of Christ to the imprisoned Apostle John on the island of Patmos finds a figurative and challenging sentence: „I saw among the Throne and the four creatures and among the Elders a Lamb standing like slain; it had

seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent into all lands“ (Revelation 5:6).

Jesus appeared in this vision to John as the Lamb of God, slaughtered for all mankind. It possesses, as a symbol for his authority, seven horns and as a sign for his omniscience, seven eyes. These seven horns and seven eyes of the Lamb of God, however, represent at the same time the Holy Spirit who is being designated in this vision as “Seven Spirits”. (Seven means in Revelation mostly “the totality”). In this vision there is a hint to the complete unity of the three-plurality of God.

The slain lamb has sent into all lands the fullness of the Holy Spirit with his authority and wisdom in order to realize his completed salvation on the cross. Nobody will be able to stop the realization of the spiritual kingdom of God. Blessed is the witness who recognizes this quiet realization of God’s plan of salvation through the Holy Spirit, who believes and has been called to participate in this work. He will see the mighty works of the Lamb in our generation and testify and worship the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and thank him for the power of his grace – also among the Muslims.

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