

20130305 09.00 Rev Youssef Ourahmane/Thomas Maphanga

KwaSizabantu Ministers' Conference 2013

The cost of following and proclaiming Jesus in a country such as Algeria

God brought us here today. What God is doing in Algeria is unique. Today we have revival in Algeria and over 100,000 Muslims converted. We have churches that's growing by 200%, 400% and up to 820% per year!

The Muslims are of the easiest people to evangelise. Think of what we heard yesterday. Believe God without doubt. All power has been given to Jesus in heaven and on earth.

The devil has been lying to us that the Muslims are so impossible to convert. God is showing to us today that truly nothing is too hard for Him.

And the amazing thing is that God works through the weak to convert the so-called most difficult group on earth. God is using those without any Christian heritage and no theological training to convert the Muslims to Christ.

There are so many being converted that the churches are too small and if you want to have a seat you must come at least 2h before the time!

The 4th largest church in the world is in Algeria. Only last Sunday they baptised 100 Muslims! And this is just the beginning.

What is happening in Algeria is a great headache to the government of Algeria. It's the first time in their history they see ten thousands of Muslims coming to Christ all the time. They say within 50 years there will be millions of Algerians converted to Christ. We believe even before 50 years!

Jesus is the only Way, the only Truth and the only Life. No one can come to the Father but by Him.

The Muslims respect someone who live and strongly believe what they preach, and don't compromise. But they despise those who compromise, trying to sooth them that Islam is a religion of peace and we all serve the same god and we all go to heaven. No, they will never respect such a nonsense gospel.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He brings true peace.

What the west call the Arab spring, with the changing governments, will never change the Arab world. Jesus is the only answer to the Arab world.

Why do I say Jesus is the only Way, Truth and Life?

Algeria was a Christian land, but became Muslim over the centuries. The first missionaries came in 1881. It was a very difficult time. They spent many years without seeing a single convert. Converts were either poisoned or rejected by their families.

When a new missionary came to Algeria, the older missionaries told the younger one that she must be prepared to stay and live her whole life without seeing a single convert.

Imagine it!

Those who came to serve in Algeria were the cream of the churches. And they stayed and ministered to the Algerians for they believed Jesus when He said, " I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail" .

You must believe and you will see your life change, your church change, and your community change.

In Acts 3 we read of Peter and John going to the temple and Peter healed the beggar. Then we read how Peter responded as they were brought before the rulers.

Acts 4

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Yes there is a cost in believing Jesus and that He is the only Way, the only Truth and the only Life.

If you read the Old Testament you see that at last 300 prophesies had been totally fulfilled in Jesus.

The Jews wanted to make Jesus king by force, but Jesus said to them, " My kingdom is not of this world"

He reigns in the hearts of men.

Jesus never inherited the sin of Adam and Eve. He is the perfect substitute for us to save us from our sin. Jesus never sinned. He always did the will of His Father.

Jesus revealed God the Father to us. He said, "I and the Father are one".

As a Muslim I always felt God is so far, but in Jesus God is so near. He gave me His Holy Spirit. Our church is full of Muslim converts. Even our preachers all have Muslim names.

One of these brothers said to me how in Christ Jesus he found God to be near.

As we look at the teaching of Jesus, it's simply amazing. Just read the sermon on the mount! Let's just look at one portion.

Matt 5

43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

It's unheard of!

The Muslims never get tired talking about God. That's why they are the easiest to evangelise. If you try to evangelise any other people they get tired so quickly.

A certain Muslim leader said about 3 years ago that if the Christians truly lived as Christians, there would be no other religion on earth.

Jesus' miracles. No other could have done the miracles Jesus did.

Jesus' titles. Have you ever studied the titles of Jesus?

He is the door, the rock, the resurrection, the good Shepherd, the Alpha and Omega, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, etc.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Many Muslims come to faith in Jesus in Algeria today There are many signs and wonders. And there are no denominations Algeria. One church, one Lord, one Saviour. We have the Word of God, faith and the Holy Spirit.

There was a sister born blind in a village in Algeria. One day she saw Jesus on His Throne. She was amazed and asked about Jesus from the Koran. But nothing satisfied her. Then she heard of Jesus from the Bible and she got saved, her life transformed and her face was shining. Today she brings many Muslims to Christ.

Another girl, Nidia, never went to school and could not read or write. She cried a lot and blamed her family for not teaching her to read and write. She wanted to read the Bible but could not. As she was crying Jesus revealed Himself to her and told her to pick up a Bible and she could read. Today she can read her Bible fluently in Arabic.

Another Muslim was diagnosed with brain cancer and pronounced to be dead soon. His sister in law was a believer and said to him, "this sickness is not to death but God's glory". She laid hands on him and also the elders and he was healed.

Jesus is also the only Way, Truth and Life because He changes the history of mankind. He finds men and women and work through them. Men like William Carey, Wilberforce, David's Livingstone and many others.

He also changed my life, given me new hope. I grew up to hate the Jews, to hate Israel. But when I came to Jesus I have no right to hate but only to love.

Yes to follow Jesus costs something.

The Koran teaches that a Muslim who leave Islam must be warned three times. If he doesn't listen, then his blood is innocent i.e. any one can kill him.

When you leave Islam and become a Christian then you have no right of inheritance from your family, you're an outcast.

The minister of religious affairs in Algeria said three times, "evangelism in Algeria is worse than terrorism".

So he sees Christians who live as true Christians as worse than terrorists, while he goes to other countries to open a new mosque.

It's a blatant lie to say Islam is a religion of peace.

The Muslims cry, "God is great", but then they have to continually protect their god. But I don't need a god I have to protect. My God protects me.

In 2008 I was sentenced to jail for three years, but after a few court cases I was acquitted with two others of my colleagues.

God has delivered us from the fear of man and we fear only God.

The law is still there but we don't fear the law. We fear only God.

Jesus said,

John 10

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

We must walk in victory. In many churches they have lost their first love for Jesus and they need to repent!