

Appendix 21

Helps for Sharing the Gospel

It has to be said that available literature will be constantly changing. Although it might be desired that recommendations on what literature may be used, it could well be that availability and usability is limited. Outreach organisations publish their own literature for use of their personnel for discreet use in the areas in which they work – often in local languages.

In practical terms, it may be that working on a personal basis it may be wise to work out one's own scheme for approach and encouragement to consider the Gospel. Because of Islamic views of art and not using images on the printed page, it will be advisable not to use those Gospel materials that are available for use in a western cultural context. Consider sensitively written and presented materials.

Also there are websites that seek to bring such presentations to the wider internet audience.

One foreign language Bible Correspondence School programme helpfully divided its curriculum into four sections, as follows:

- (i) A general course on the contents of the Books of Moses, the Psalms and the Prophets, following the progressive revelation of God's plan for salvation in the Old Testament.
- (ii) 'Jesus the Messiah': a course specifically on the life of Christ as narrated through the gospels.
- (iii) 'God's Way': this was compiled from a set of papers written by a born-again Christian national from a Muslim background, which discussed (not argued) various theological topics of particular interest to Muslims that were covered in the previous two courses. It sought to consolidate the truths presented in the first two courses, and considered their implications.
- (iv) 'The Way of Salvation' was a translation of 'Right with God' by John Blanchard (published by Banner of Truth Trust). This volume, it was believed, presented the gospel in terms that might be acceptable to a Muslim. Chapter 1 was not used, as that deals with arguments for the Bible being the word of God. It was felt that it was right to begin with that assumption, as the students had already been using Scripture with this understanding. The rest of the book presented the gospel message and employed very appropriate Scriptures for use with Muslims. The last chapter ('The Way Ahead') was expanded with helpful material to encourage the new believer, and give him practical help to know how to live sensitively as a Christian in a Muslim environment.

A published course that takes a similar approach is one produced in Africa. This course was published by Evangel Publishing House, P.O. Box 1015, Kisumu, Kenya. It demonstrates a very appropriate systematic approach, sharing with a Muslim the teaching of the Holy Bible very simply. It is in the form of four booklets with the following titles:

- (i) 'The Beginning of People': 'Lessons from the First Book of the Taurat of the Prophet Moses';
- (ii) 'God's Covenant with the People of Israel': 'Lessons from the Second Book of the Taurat of the Prophet Moses, Zabur of the Prophet David, and Other Prophets of God';
- (iii) 'God Loves People': 'Lessons from The Injil of Jesus the Messiah';
- (iv) 'The People of God': 'More Lessons from the Holy Scriptures.' This last booklet deals with the Church as portrayed in Acts and discusses aspects of the practical Christian life, quoting from Matthew through to Revelation.

This is a general overview of approaches to Muslim enquirers and contacts, presented in the hope that it might be of some assistance in showing the sort of direction it is profitable to take in thinking through a faithful presentation of the truths of the Word of God. It is our prayerful concern that the Gospel may be shared as appropriate opportunities arise, and that this may be done in a helpful and relevant manner –addressing the particular problems that are presented by our Muslim friend.