

Something to Pray About

March 2014 – Cindy Sears

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. —2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV

Ambassadors for Christ

I am reading the book, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity* by Nabeel Qureshi. This is the story of how Nabeel was raised as a Muslim, but came to know Christ as Lord and Savior. The descriptions of how Nabeel was raised in the Islam faith are fascinating, and, frankly, humiliating when I compare it with how I was raised in a Christian, regular-church-attending, family. We were at church practically every time the doors were open, and I was involved in Sunday school, VBS, and in the G.A.s (Girls' Auxiliary of the R.A.s or Royal Ambassadors—the boys' group) in a Baptist church. I also participated in Bible drills, where we practiced and competed in quickly looking up Bible passages; and I memorized Bible verses on a regular basis. But, I don't remember either of my parents ever drilling me on what I knew about Christ or Christian theology or history. I was never asked to quote Bible verses at home. The only thing we did at home was say a short prayer before we ate our meals.

Nabeel tells of being drilled on Islam tenets of faith, the prophet Muhammad's life, and the history of Islam. He memorized prayers that he had to say up to 32 times a day; plus, he memorized whole sections of the Quran (Islam's sacred text) and in the original Arabic, no less. He also was required to learn apologetics or how to defend his faith and, specifically, undermine Christian beliefs.

Listen to what his mother tells him as he enters an American school in Virginia during his teen years:

"Beyta, I wish there were some Muslim boys in your school so you wouldn't be alone in representing Islam and so you would have true companionship. But that was not Allah's will. Always remember this: no matter where you are or what you are doing, you are an ambassador for Islam. You will always be an ambassador for Islam." (p. 74; emphasis added)

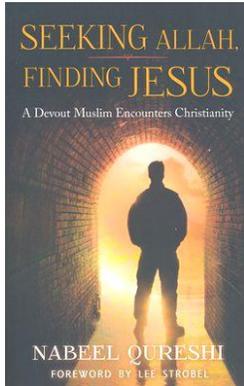
Nabeel's mother goes on to say:

"...Whatever you do, be the most respectful, honest, and dignified one doing it, so people will praise Islam...Be such a virtuous person that no one can even point a finger of blame at you. In their hearts, they will praise you because they will know you are honorable, or they will dislike you because they dislike themselves. Either way, they will know that Islam has made you the good person you are." (p.75)

I mentioned the old-style Baptist group, the R.A.s above, which refers to the Royal Ambassadors. We used to be taught that we were ambassadors of Christ and for Christ in the world. Are children being taught that today? Do we adults understand that we are ambassadors for Christ? Do we try to be honest, pure, and respectful, and do whatever we are doing in a way that will bring honor to His Name and to Christianity?

People of the Islamic faith look at America as a Christian nation, and find proof that "Christians" are not God-fearing people, because they assume that all Americans are Christians. When they look at what is going on here—in TV shows and movies, in the news, in personal and business relationships, they have the proof they want that Christ is not the Son of God and Christianity is a false religion. It is up to

us—the true believers in Christ, who are not “Christians” in name only—to show them and tell them what Christianity and being a disciple of Christ is all about. We are ambassadors of our Lord and Savior. Honor His Name and our faith by how you live.



I highly recommend this biography by Qureshi, and put forth another note from the book. Nabeel said a Christian friend spoke with him and lovingly answered his questions and arguments against Christianity for seven years before he came to Christ. That’s a lot of seed planting, plowing, watering, and hoeing! Be a friend first, witness with how you live first, and be open to every opportunity to speak of Christ—and most of all be patient. The Holy Spirit brings people to Christ; we are only His official messengers. †