

Reviewed by DK

DK served with AWM for 15 years in the Middle East; most of that time on the same team as Mike Kuhn. For the last 4 years he has been involved in ministry to Muslims in the US.

KEYS: UNLOCKING THE GOSPEL FOR MUSLIMS,

by Colin Bearup.

Gerrards-Cross: WEC Publications, 2009

Translated from French by Debbie Fahim & dedicated to Magdy Fahim,
1951-1999.

The book *KEYS: Unlocking the Gospel for Muslims* is a teach-yourself-guide or tool for reading Matthew's Gospel with a Muslim audience. The idea is to start with Matthew and familiarise yourself with it so that you can use it with skill and confidence when sharing its truths. The book is designed for people who are new to ministry among Muslims and who want to learn how to share the Gospel effectively with people of different religious views. However, I personally believe the second part of the book, the guide to reading Matthew, is excellent and useful for even those who are more experienced, because it helps us pay attention to key points and relevant issues.

The first chapter is an analysis and it summarizes the Gospel, which is good news; it answers the question 'what does this mean?' and explains how to express it so Muslims hear it as good news. The summary is comprised of the following four sentences:

1. God is holy and perfect, opposed to evil.
2. Man is a sinner, separated from God and is incapable of making himself acceptable to God.
3. Jesus was sent by God to save us: to pay for and conquer sin, to redeem us, to give us new life, and much more.
4. Through faith in Christ, we receive forgiveness, salvation, new life, the gift of the Spirit and we become children of God.

Displaying these sentences in table format creates a helpful visual aid:

GOD		MAN		JESUS		OUR PART
Is holy	→	Is sinful	→	Is the Saviour	→	To believe and be saved

Using key words and names that are familiar to both Christians and Muslims, as in the table below, to express these concepts can also be helpful.

GOD		MAN		JESUS		OUR PART
The Judge	→	Guilty	→	The Sacrifice	→	To receive Jesus
The Owner	→	Lost	→	The Good Shepherd	→	To follow Jesus
The True Master	→	Captive of Satan	→	The Conqueror	→	To trust Jesus
The Light	→	In darkness	→	Light of the world	→	To be led by Jesus
The God of Israel	→	Far away from God	→	The Chosen King	→	To enter the Kingdom
The Creator	→	Defiled creation	→	The Second Adam	→	To receive new birth
Most Honoured One	→	Shamed	→	The Reconciler	→	To repent and receive salvation

Islam could be expressed in the same kind of format, which is helpful for understanding the contrasts between the foundational beliefs and how to address them:

GOD		MAN		THE SOLUTION		OUR PART
Is greater than everything	→	Is weak	→	Religion and practices	→	Submission

The next two chapters give some basic advice for sharing the gospel with Muslims, including a list of dos and don'ts about vocabulary, an explanation of gender roles and a gentle reminder to have authentic love expressed in a culturally appropriate manner. It also suggests answers to some of the basic questions Muslims raise.

The rest of the book concentrates on the main purpose: a guide to using Matthew's Gospel. First, the author very aptly guides the reader in learning to use stories in a much more effective manner than simply telling them. There are several examples showing how to present the story (1) engaging with the facts of the story, (2) with the emotions and also (3) engaging with the listener's

imagination. Then the book also addresses the application of stories; how to ask questions and help the listeners to discover the truths for themselves.

Lastly, there is a detailed section entitled: *How to read Matthew with a Muslim friend*, with notes and ideas, laid out chapter by chapter. It is a great tool to have and it helps with Bible reading, as it is especially designed for Muslims. Also, I think it will encourage church members that they can also share Christ with Muslims and not leave this to just the specialists. This is a very practical book. Read it and then give it to someone in your church.

Reviewed by Elsie Maxwell

BREAKING THE ISLAM CODE:
UNDERSTANDING THE SOUL QUESTIONS
OF EVERY MUSLIM

By J.D. Greear

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2010, 176 pages.
ISBN: 978-0736926386

Another new book on ministering to Muslims has come out this year. J.D. Greear, the author of *Breaking the Islam Code*, worked in the Muslim world for two years in Southeast Asia. He is now a pastor in North Carolina. Greear's main purpose for writing this book is to help those who would really like to see a Muslim brought to faith in Jesus Christ but do not know exactly how to make it happen. He is less concerned with Islam as a geopolitical movement and more concerned with Muslims as individuals. If you want to understand Muslims as people – how they think, what they care about and what the obstacles are that one has to overcome to win them to Christ, then this is the book for you! The title of Greear's book sounds intriguing but there was not that much new insight into Muslims. However, I did like his challenge in the end.

The first four chapters focus on getting readers familiar with the Muslim mindset so we will know how to communicate with them. Some other aspects are mentioned such as the importance of creating the right environment which will be conducive to an effective dialogue, analysing what moves and motivates Muslims and breaking down misconceptions on both sides.

Chapter five deals with the 'Muslim Salvation Code' which in essence means learning about their theology, culture and the typical questions they ask about God and salvation. We have to share with our Muslim friends about how 'divine justice' is shown in the way that God provided a sacrifice for the forgiveness of