

Should we submit to such a state knowing that those children taken by the state would be raised as Muslim soldiers whose job would be to repress us? This "Christian tax," practiced in the Balkans for about 300 years (75 years longer than the United States has existed as a country), should not be forgotten.

My criticisms of the book are that:

1) *As bad as Islam can be, I think he overemphasizes the negative qualities of Islam.* At times he fails to mention other motivations or details in situations that would make the behavior of Muslims more understandable. At times he is unfairly critical of them. Islam is not 100 percent bad. After reading this book you would think that

it was. In fairness to the author, he is trying to make a case against the misdirection of the present Bush administration's "war on terrorism." As such, it is not surprising that he should focus exclusively on the points that favor his side of the argument.

2) *It is not a missionary book.* While addressing the religious dimension of how to respond, the positive Christian motivation of love and concern for the welfare of Muslims are not as clearly emphasized as they should be. At times it borders on creating an irrational fear and hatred for Muslims.

(I do not personally know if he is a true believer or just a "Christian." Perhaps someone else on the forum can answer that question.)

Book Review: Daughters of Islam

Reviewed by Joyce Wiebe

Daughters of Islam by Miriam Adeney.

Have you ever asked yourself such questions as: Who exactly are Muslim women anyway? How are they different from their western counterpart? Where do they come from? What are their public roles, their role in the family and community? Given their religion and society, can they really become believers in the Lord Jesus Christ? What can we do to help them see Jesus?

The book *Daughters of Islam* addresses these questions and many others in a very thorough and careful way. It is documented with true stories

of Muslim women in Islamic countries around the world with five chapters alone of case studies on Muslim-background women believers. Miriam Adeney finds the good and beautiful in these women and treats them with respect and compassion.

The author has investigated, interviewed and researched the subject for some seven years, as well as drawing upon her anthropological background of cultures and people groups. She is eminently qualified to write a book such as this, and does so in a clear and sympathetic manner. By that I mean

that she puts across the Muslim beliefs and viewpoint in a kind and non-judgmental way, then sets it in contrast with the truth of Christianity and the beauty of Jesus Christ—which is, after all, what women everywhere need.

One of the more thought-provoking chapters for me was that on money matters (chap. 10). In many economically impoverished countries women have been helped to discover their own resources and to use them, becoming breadwinners in their own right. Micro-loans are often needed to help the poor get started in such enterprises, but as accountability, simplicity and community are encouraged in each case, the dividends have more than paid off.

The chapter on family (chap. 6) gives a survey of women's rights in the *Qur'an* as set out by the Prophet Muhammad, followed by the ways these have been interpreted and expanded upon in various Muslim countries. What emerges as the main reasons for limiting women is that: (1) women are polluted and polluting, and (2) women are passionate, not reasonable, thus leading men astray. The author then discusses how these views of her femininity affect a woman

when she comes to Christ, either as single woman or married, (in which case she may lose her children) and how the family of God can make a difference.

Chapter 8 gives helpful ideas of how to share the Gospel with Muslim women. The way a Muslim woman learns is different from western methods. Many learn more from imaginative forms than in formal Bible study. Teaching must be brought in through inconspicuous ways—as one tells Bible story (Chronological Bible Storying is a good example of this) or through songs, memorizing Scripture, skits and plays and even debate (chatting back and forth on the Internet, for example). All of these and more are crucial ways in which Muslim women learn.

Each chapter is full of relevant issues which can help us to understand and reach out to our Muslim neighbors or believing sisters from this background. The stated aim of the author of this book is to educate her reader about important parts of Muslim women's lives, to elucidate some mission strategies, to offer examples and to encourage. In my opinion Miriam Adeney has done just that. *Daughters of Islam* is a book well worth reading.