

Why are North Americans turning to Islam

Some of this letter is copied from the National Post.

The women gather at the Old Country Buffet in a Boston shopping mall.

They laugh and chat as they dig into roast beef and ice cream sundaes.

They could be any group of young moms and college students enjoying

a night out. But they're not. These American women are recent converts to Islam, celebrating the end of Ramadan.

They symbolize a curious new phenomenon in the wake of September 11/01: A surge of Islamic conversions.

"I said the testimony, and poof, I was a Muslim," says Tiffany Motschenbacher, a University of Massachusetts theater major.

And she adds, "I used to feel something was wrong with me because I couldn't grasp the concept of God. Now I finally had peace of heart."

Through out history this is not an uncommon reaction to terrorists or terrorist attacks, especially the female gender.

For what reason I do not know but in past hijackings cases a lot of the younger females end up defending their captors.

When it comes to Islamic conversions, you can't help but count the ironies. Throughout history, **Islam has spread through violent conquest.** Today -- after Islamic radicals killed thousands of our neighbors -- Americans are voluntarily converting.

Another irony: Around the country, so-called "seeker friendly" churches try to attract people through pop music and sanctuaries that resemble shopping malls and anything goes. Meanwhile, Islam -- which just suffered a huge public relations debacle attracts converts through what can only be described **as seeker unfriendly** elements: **rigid rules of conduct, dress, and life.**

Our seeker friendly churches have no rules of conduct or dress

Islam is now the fastest growing religion in the United States.

More than thirty percent of mosque attendees are converts. What is going on?

Well, first, the attacks have sparked an interest in learning more about Islam, a religion that appears exotic to western eyes. Second, during times of crisis, religions with clear definitions of right and wrong look increasingly attractive. Thirdly, they fight for their beliefs by lobbying the government to ban Christian publications. While their religion goes untouched because they do not proclaim Jesus as God.

Karen Courtenay, one of the new converts who gathered at the Old Country Buffet, told NATIONAL POST that many converts are attracted to "Islam's rich mysticism and clear theology and rules, its family values, sense of community, moral certainty.

Whatever the reasons for Islam's gains, it's clear that Christians have our work cut out for us. We must educate ourselves so we can explain the difference between Islam and Christianity. New

converts to Islam often display a faulty understanding of both faiths. **For example,** **Lisa, one of the diners at the Old Country Buffet, said, "I liked the fact that to become a Muslim, you don't have to disrespect Jesus. He is still a prophet, just not the Son of God."** **She doesn't seem to realize that placing Muhammad above Christ is the ultimate disrespect.**

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, **but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.**

v9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

v10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

v11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

And we ought to rethink our seeker-friendly approach

and instead boldly teach our doctrines, like we used to what C.S. Lewis called "Mere Christianity" -- and do it in open and intentional community.

You see, what seeking souls want, is sound doctrine.

Not our doctrine, BUT God's, he is the one that brings the increase. BUT, if the gospel is watered down, what do you expect.

There was a survey done amongst young teenagers about discipline and the majority of them said yes they want loving discipline when they do things wrong. Even when the law says you can't discipline your children.

Revelations 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Job 5:17 "Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

You see discipline is part of life, it is not only our churches that lack a self disciplined life, just look at our society with it's legal system.

People are looking for something real to hang on to and Jesus is real. The church is not preaching the gospel according to God's word, it's watered down and so many say **" This or that isn't for today but was for the Lords time and not today". "Hogwash"**

Hebrews 8-9 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

It is the miracle power of God, that draws souls to him.

Where are the signs and wonders?

The church won't allow it on their premises, they might look stupid if something goes wrong, or they may be open to a lawsuit.

Mark 16:17-18 &20 **And these signs shall follow them that believe;**

In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.

If we are sharing the GOSPEL and doing what God commanded us? Do you think God is so little that he can't look after things. Reminds me of the church praying for Peter's release from prison.

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: **but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.**

Acts 12:12/15 And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. And **as Peter knocked at the door of the gate**, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, **and told how Peter stood before the gate.**

And they said unto her, **Thou art mad.** But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, **It is his angel.**

When Peter knocked on the door, they didn't believe it was him, even tho they had been praying for this very thing Doesn't sound that much different from today?

Acts 12:16 But **Peter** continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, **they were astonished.**

I trust this will shed some light on your questions.

Bro Ken