



WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

SHOULD WE BURN THE KORAN?

A couple of years ago, Ralph Williams and I were left in a parked, older model SUV in downtown Chittagong, Bangladesh, while a couple of local Christians and the driver went to get us some luchi frybread and Coca-Colas for breakfast. It was morning rush hour, and the streets were filled with Muslims including not a few clerics and imams. I admit that the sight and experience was unsettling. I have heard the harrowing Muslim calls to prayer in such cities as Banderban, Nairobi, Arusha, and Dar es Salaam, and I cannot agree that it is either comforting or beautiful. Many of the world's trouble spots and areas of conflict center around at least one side adhering to Muslim ideology. In its fundamental form, Muslims who are true to their book will read encouragement to be violent and oppressive. For example, Qu'ran (8:12) says, "I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Therefore strike off their heads and strike off every fingertip of them." Later, one reads, "So when the sacred months have passed away, then slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captives and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush, then if they repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate, leave their way free to them" (Qu'ran 9:5). Some (see www.thereligionofpeace.com) say at least 109 verses in the Koran call for Muslims to war against those they regard as infidels (unbelievers).

This Saturday, September 11, 2010, marks the ninth anniversary of the attack by Muslim terrorists on New York City, Washington, D.C., and another target thwarted in western Pennsylvania. To mark this infamous date, a community church pastor named Terry Jones is going to burn a few hundred copies of the Koran. Should we commend this response that has drawn international attention and caused many in Iraq and Afghanistan to burn this man in effigy? Is that courage and conviction, and is it that with which our Lord would be pleased?

While I certainly cannot speak for Him, I can look at His Words and follow His example (1 Pet. 2:21; see context). *(Continued on page 3)*

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:” - 1 Peter 2:21

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T J Bolen—What I do have, I give to you.

PM: T J Bolen—The Beauty of Baptism

“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” - Matthew 7:13

NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320

Nursery provided
Bible Classes for all ages

Informal Bible Study
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your Bible questions
Saturdays 3 pm

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- **Anna Porter** was unable to have the heart treatment Sept 3 she was looking forward to, to bring her heart back into rhythm. They may try again in 6 months.
- **Tommy White** fell and injured some ribs. He was barely able to get around Sunday.
- **Margaret DeYoung** is not doing well.
- It is reported that **Richard Ramkinson** isn't well either.
- **Margaret Herring** continues to suffer with many ailments.
- **Jason Parks** has been having difficulty sleeping for several months now.
- **Pat** and **Boyd Joyner** had their 63rd wedding anniversary Sept 1st. Pray for them both. We are thankful for Pat's zealous attendance.
- Remember also, **Gwen Pittman** (send a card), **Dorothy Gray**, **Margaret Gamble** (**Jones'** sister), **Stephanie Rigney**, **Floyd Richbourg** and **Carolyn Stidham**.
- Remember to pray for and send cards to those we've not seen for awhile.
- Pray also that we all grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge.**

“For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.”

-Philippians 2:27

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **FIRST** Sunday, stay to share a meal and for the men's business meeting afterwards.
- **Gospel Meeting** St. Andrews Road 9/14-17, **Allen Webster** of Jacksonville AL.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**
- We need **volunteers** to take the DVD and the Lord's supper to our shut-ins.

“Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law”

- Romans 13:10

“... PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS.” - Titus 2:14

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, ... For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body *were* an eye, where *were* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *were* the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where *were* the body? But now *are* they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: ” - 1 Cor 12:12-22

SHOULD WE BURN THE KORAN? *(continued from page 1)*

I can read the writings of His disciples whom the Holy Spirit inspired to record His will and teaching. I can see how John and Paul dealt with Judaism and proto-gnosticism, two of the most pervasive, troubling, and rival religions of the day. They attacked and addressed ideas and doctrines, but they did not burn their books or their idols. While Jesus turned over the money changers table, He did not do so as a member of a different world religion but rather as a practitioner of that religion correcting corruptions He saw within it (Matt. 21:12ff). When books were burned in Acts 19:19, it was done by people who were converted to Christianity and felt convicted in their repentance to graphically get rid of books they now knew should hold no sway over them. Paul did not burn those books in anger or in vengeance.

By the power of the gospel and providence of God, I have been able to sit down and study with Muslims in this country and overseas. Through His Word, I have had the joy of watching men and women leave that religion to follow Christ. Never have I found it effective to try to persuade someone or reach their heart by affronting, offending, and provoking them. We serve the Prince of Peace (cf. Isa. 9:6). He has shown us the way to mature, heavenly love (cf. 1 Cor. 13:4ff). We are to be wise as serpents, but harmless as doves (Matt. 10:16). Jones' action seems neither wise nor harmless. Nor will it advance the cause of Christ or implant the word of Christ in the hearts of the lost. We need to reach those outside of Christ, including those of the Muslim faith, but this is not the way to do it!

- **Neal Pollard**, Pulpit minister, Bear Valley church of Christ, Denver, Colorado

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;”

- 2 Corinthians 10:3,4

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;” 2 Timothy 2:24,25

Books of the Old Testament—Good to memorize them!

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|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Genesis | 2 Samuel | Psalms | Hosea |
| Exodus | 1 Kings | Proverbs | Joel |
| Leviticus | 2 Kings | Ecclesiastes | Amos |
| Numbers | 1 Chronicles | Song of Solomon | Obadiah |
| Deuteronomy | 2 Chronicles | Isaiah | Jonah |
| Joshua | Ezra | Jeremiah | Micah |
| Judges | Nehemiah | Lamentations | Nahum |
| Ruth | Esther | Ezekiel | Habakkuk |
| 1 Samuel | Job | Daniel | Zephaniah |