

## Knowledge of Muslim World Vital to Confronting Challenge of Islam

Broadcast Bulletin 1983  
Rev. Bassam M. Madany

The challenge of Islam is mounting – in North America and abroad. The Arab world, once slightly open to the Gospel, today is closed, increasing the importance of radio missions since no other means of communicating the message of salvation in Jesus Christ is possible.

North Americans who work in Saudi Arabia are forbidden to bring a Bible into that country, while ads appear in Kuwaiti newspapers encouraging students to study Islam in the United States and Canada. In the small Illinois community of Frankfort, Muslims appeal to neighbors in the south suburbs of Chicago to join their congregation, which meets for worship in an old two-story house they purchased two years ago.

“In recent years, as a result of headlines emanating from the Arab world – oil embargoes; Americans held hostages in Iran for 444 days; Marines massacred in Beirut – we have discovered a world that had long been ignored,” says Rev. Bassam Madany, Arabic language minister of The Back to God Hour.” Today’s world cannot simply be divided into the free world and the Marxist world – there are many worlds, including the Muslim world, a world containing 800 million people.

“Everyone must be concerned about the impact of Islam, about the power it exerts. But we are to have Christian concern, and must not respond with hatred.”

The Back to God Hour Arabic minister has been bringing the Word of God to Muslims for more than 25 years, and a note of urgency is detected in his voice as he speaks of his mission field today.

“I appeal to Christians – to *Mission Courier* readers – to face the challenge of Islam head-on,” says Rev. Madany. “Islam is the Muslim’s religion, culture, and political philosophy.

“Support from you, our friends, and your prayers spur us on in these frustrating times. But now we ask more. We ask that you become more aware of this challenge we face daily, that you become knowledgeable of the Muslim, his world, and its impact,” the minister implores.

“Our basic burden is to present the Gospel in the Arabic language to Muslims, wherever they may be throughout the world. We have done this faithfully, with God’s help, for 25 years. Despite the fact the Middle East is a world in turmoil, a world on fire, we know the message we bring is touching the hearts of many people. We receive an average of 750 letters from the Arab world each month. Listeners write that the *Saatu’l Islah* program offers them a ray of hope, a sign that God has not forsaken them.

“But we are also a source of information, of which we ask you to avail yourselves. Pamphlets, books, and other materials are available in English to those wanting to understand Muslims in today’s world; to approach them with the Gospel; to those wishing a Christian perspective on the situation in the Arab world. These materials are available through the *Saatu’l Islah* office, to North Americans and Arabs alike, in English or in Arabic.

“We are not working in a vacuum,” emphasizes Rev. Madany. “We must work together to meet the needs of the spiritually hungry, tormented Muslim in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, North America. . . in our own communities.

“People from throughout the world ‘knock at our door’ asking for *Saatu’l Islah* materials,” continued Rev. Madany. A priest, a former missionary in Tanzania now living in France, is seeking Christian materials with which to reach Muslims. He writes that his order, the White Fathers (so named because of their garb), is sending missionaries to evangelize Muslims in Europe and Africa and he is in charge of providing the missionaries with suitable outreach materials.

“We pray that people close to home – our friends in North America – will soon knock at our door as well.”

***Mission Courier*** readers interested in more information are asked to write ***Saatu’l Islah***, The Back to God Hour, 6555 West College Drive, Palos Heights, IL 60403