

What Does It Cost To Be CHRISTIAN?

This question is somewhat removed from the lips of Americans. It is not so distant for many new believers in other parts of the world, especially Muslim converts to Lutheranism, be they in Somalia, Sudan or Detroit.

Bat Yeior, the author of *The Decline of Eastern Christianity Under Islam*, says, **“American Christians, you must pray for Muslims who live without the mercy and atonement of Jesus Christ. Muslims are coming to Jesus, as Messiah. But you also need to be aware of the physical, political and spiritual danger that has come to your shores. It will be tragic for your nation if you do not learn about the history of Islam, an Islam that has not changed. Your temporary isolation of only a few hundred years is now gone.”**

As this is written, Vidya (not her real name) is being given refuge in an LHF complex. She was Muslim and converted to Lutheranism. Vidya took a Somali Bible and a booklet published by LHF to her home. When her family found out about her association with Lutherans they demanded she remove herself from this evil influence. She insisted she was a Christian and they began to read the Koran to her. She again insisted she was Christian. In anger they picked up stones and beat her in the face resulting in cuts and bruises and teeth knocked out. She managed to escape and the LHF provided her medical and dental care.

Vidya is part of a group of Muslims who came to our camp reporting that they had heard about Jesus and about our work as translators. They wanted to know if there was anything available in Somali. Our director arranged to meet with them for classes and as they met they began to translate the booklet mentioned above and also Luther's **Small Catechism** as they studied it. The **Catechism** is now under review and soon to be printed. The group has begun Lutheran services but the worship is carried on in secret because of the Muslim opposition. We can't tell you the rest of the story as it would be too revealing and put Vidya's life in danger as there is an actual hit list that contains her name.

A little closer to home we have a young Muslim lady who came to classes at the Detroit People of the Open Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) Center. She took a Bible home and when her husband found out he began to beat her. She was forced to escape to a Lutheran family who lived down the street.

LHF Information And Statistics

- Founded by the Rev. Dr. Robert L. Rahn on November 10, 1992.
- For the first five years the work was conducted out of a home basement.
- The U.S. staff now consists of eight full time workers and 10 part-time/retired individuals assisting the LHF in regional promotional activities.
- The LHF has recently established a program requesting individuals to consider becoming an LHF Congregation Liaison.
- LHF was the first American Lutheran organization in 70 years to publish a major Lutheran work in the Russian and Ukrainian languages. Presently there are nearly 300 volumes in print in a variety of languages.
- Some of the newer languages in which Lutheran confessional writings are being translated: Somali, Urdu, Vietnamese, Thai, Hmong, Guere (Cote d'Ivoire), Tamil, Zande, Masai, Nuer, Arabic, Albanian, Spanish, Korean and Japanese.
- A listing of all books published, books in the process of translation and those planned for the future is available upon request.
- LHF has been instrumental in assisting in the formation of new Lutheran church bodies. In Sudan, the Rev. Andrew Mbugo Elisa was trained at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN and ordained on August 29, 1999, when there were eight congregations and 1,000 members. Today there are 35 congregations with nearly 10,000 members.
- LHF is actively promoting a second Reformation around the world through the translation, publication and distribution of Lutheran literature. All books published are offered free of charge to missionaries, churches, church bodies and individuals. To support this work, please make your gifts payable to LHF and mail to the address below.
- To learn more about the world-wide mission efforts of the LHF please visit us on-line at the address provided below or phone the office.

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