

# ON THE BOOKSHELF

“From Cairo to Christ: How One Muslim’s Faith Journey Shows the Way for Others”

By Abu Atallah and Kent A. Van Til (IVP Books)

First, some wonderful news: in the past 40 years, more Muslims have converted to Christianity than did during the previous 1400 years! Abu Atallah is one of those converts, and has been instrumental in bringing hundreds of Muslims to Christ through his various ministries and outreaches. He founded a church in the predominantly Arab-populated city of Dearborn, Michigan. He became a consultant on Islam for a major mission agency in London. He is currently a missionary for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Europe, working with millions of Syrian refugees. But Abu can’t go back to his home nation of Egypt for fear he will be killed as an apostate.

He came to Christ as a young Egyptian man, and partly because he saw how Coptic Christians were treated by the Muslim Brotherhood, and partly because he went to a Christian meeting because Christian women would be there that he wanted to date. There he heard that God loves. The difference between Allah, a god of law & justice, and Jesus, a god of love, would change his life. The difference in how Muslims and Christians prayed also affected him: Christians prayed as though they were talking to a friend who cared about them; Muslims used prescribed prayers to beg for mercy.

Abu found a Bible that his older brother had hidden in a clothes drawer, and began reading it. He became a Christian, and tried to hide it at first because it was very dangerous in Egypt. But his new Christian friends and his new attitudes convinced his family to expose his apostasy. Abu was arrested, badly beaten, and harangued to get him to recant. He refused. They released him and he left town. His family disowned him, except for his mother. Abu came to America, and his outreach ministries to Muslims began.

Abu is very honest about the attitudes and actions which put barriers between Christians and Muslims. For example, Islam is NOT peace, despite what several Presidents have said; it is ‘submission’, and usually boot-on-the-throat variety. “To Muslims, the West is the Christian West: decadent, arrogant, and violent.” They base their opinion on American movies and TV shows. The Qur’an treats women as second-class citizens, good only for the use of a man. “Islam is submission to an impersonal lawgiver who honors his fallen warriors, whereas Christianity honors those who follow the personal and living God of love. In Christianity, heaven came down to us.”

What should Christians do about the threat of radical Islam? This author says we should show them the love of Jesus in our attitude, our life, and our relationships, including with Muslims in America.