



March/April 2024

## An Inspiring Testimony

Over the years I had read about or heard second-hand accounts of Muslims from closed countries coming to faith in Christ. However, a few weeks ago at a home Bible study, I had the joy of personally meeting and hearing the testimony of a young man from a closed African country who recently converted from Islam to personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior. Joseph (which is not his real name) shared with me in vivid detail how his devotion to Islam led him down a path of discouragement and despair. No matter how diligent he was to follow all the minute details of his religion, he would always fall short of complete obedience, and as a result, would plummet into guilt, shame, and depression. He actually considered becoming an atheist so that he could somehow escape from the heavy yoke that his religion had burdened him with. He began to desperately cry out to God for help and mercy!

As an answer to his desperate plea for help, God clearly impressed upon Joseph the need for him to somehow obtain a Bible. God led him to a missionary friend of ours who was staying in an area near to where Joseph lived. The missionary was learning a language there in order to reach Muslims in another country in Africa. The missionary was trying to keep a low profile so as to remain in this country while doing his language study. When Joseph approached him and asked if he knew where he could obtain a Bible, the missionary was suspicious and thought that Joseph might be working undercover in order to expose him. Hesitantly, the missionary gave him a Bible.

Joseph devoured the entire Bible and especially the New Testament. After several months, Joseph believed the Gospel and put his faith in Christ as his Savior. Being in his mid-twenties and still living at home, Joseph knew that he must confess Christ as his Savior. When he told his family about his conversion, they were furious! His father struck him in the face and told him that he never wanted to see him ever again. Eventually, he discovered that his uncle was trying to locate him in order to kill him. So, Joseph had to flee from his village and ended up spending a couple of months hiding in a remote forest.

Eventually, Joseph was able to reconnect with our missionary friend. This missionary was able to shelter and care for Joseph until they were both able to leave this particular country. Joseph has now been a believer for two and a half years and has a great burden to reach other Muslims with the Gospel. Please pray for Joseph and our missionary friend as they have teamed up to preach the Gospel to a large group of unreached Muslims.

