

# Blessing Muslims

“from A-Z”

By the Muslim  
Engagement Team  
for Vineyard Churches



There are 5 broad phases  
to engaging Muslims

1. Start blessing-the-nations initiatives in your church
2. Train your people in bridge-building & cross-cultural sensitivity
3. Engage Muslims nearby
4. Engage Muslims internationally
5. Support those who are engaging Muslims



Do you have church members who are interested in Muslims but you don't know how to guide them? Would you like to share Jesus' love with Muslims but don't know how? Or perhaps you are burdened about the chronic conflict between Muslims and Christians and would like to be a positive force for peace? The Muslim Engagement Team has written this resource for people like you.

This document provides a five-phase process for helping your church engage Muslims ... a checklist of important steps for people to take in their journey to bless Muslims. Tools and resources are listed below each of the five sections to help provide guidance and give answers to your questions.

## Muslims: The New Samaritans

Helping Vineyard overcome prejudice, ignorance and hostility in order to demonstrate Christ's love to Muslims



## 1. Start blessing-the-nations initiatives in your church

- **Organize** your plan
  - Get input from Vineyard's Muslim Engagement Team for the whole process
  - Identify goals, strategies
- **Tell** your Regional Missions Taskforce contact of your interests
- **Teach** your church
  - Biblical basis for blessing all nations
  - Rationale for blessing Muslims
- **Go** on short-term trips to Muslim countries
- **Focus** your attention
  - Discern through prayer
  - Collect information about the country
- **Discover** where the Vineyard is working in the Muslim world
  - On the website
  - Muslim Engagement Team
  - Vineyard Missions Taskforce leaders
- **Appoint** a team at your church that will help implement the vision
  - Global Engagement Team
  - International Initiatives Task Force
- **Partner** with other churches

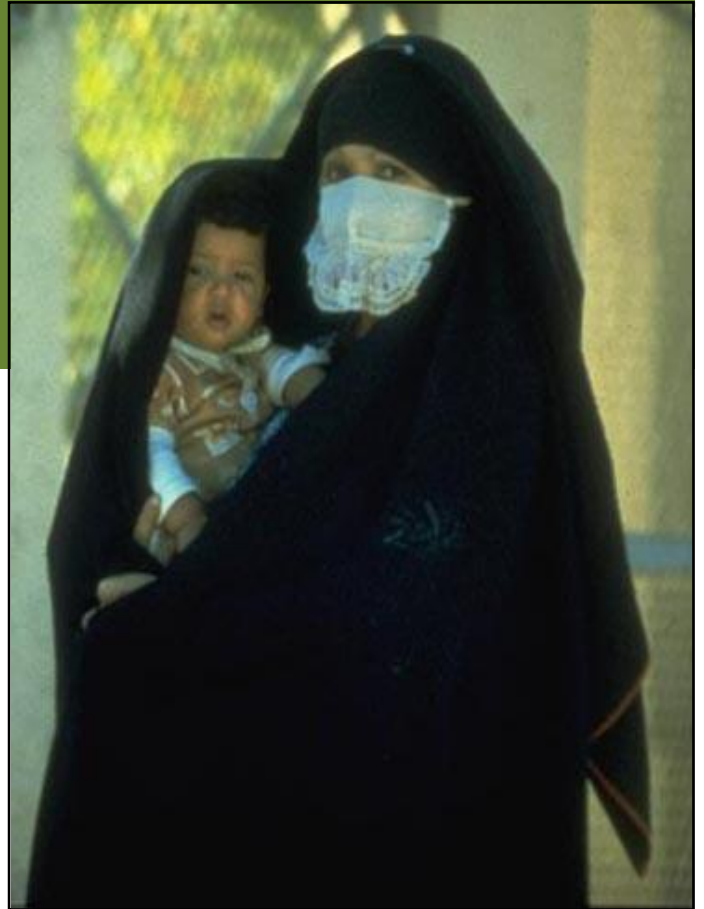
## Tools and resources...

- For media resources, contact Tim McDonell at [vineyardmet@gmail.com](mailto:vineyardmet@gmail.com)
- Vineyard explains its approach and offers resources ([www.blessingmuslims.org](http://www.blessingmuslims.org))
- *Muslims, Christians and Jesus* by Carl Medearis
- Encountering the World of Islam course ([www.encounteringislam.org](http://www.encounteringislam.org))
- Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course ([www.perspectives.org](http://www.perspectives.org))
- Nothingsgonnastopit by Bill Jackson ([www.nothingsgonnastopit.com](http://www.nothingsgonnastopit.com))
- Land of Paradise video, a friendly intro to American Muslims on Youtube: ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbcmPe0z3Sc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbcmPe0z3Sc))
- How to design a global vision and strategy for your church: Vineyard on a Mission ([www.vineyardmissions.org/images/Vineyard\\_on\\_a\\_Mission.pdf](http://www.vineyardmissions.org/images/Vineyard_on_a_Mission.pdf))



## 2. Train your people in bridge-building & cross-cultural sensitivity

- **Look** for people with cross-cultural desires and skills
- **Go** on short-term trips to the country/ people group you want to bless and observe the team's skills and attitudes
- **Train** and **assess** the team
  - Biblical foundations
  - Cross-cultural knowledge and skills
  - Islamics
  - Practical and power ministry skills and experience
  - Character, emotional health and marital health assessments
  - Gospel planting knowledge and skills
  - Get input from Jerry Reddix (Vineyard Mobile Care Facilitator)
  - Key schools with training in Islamics: Fuller Seminary, Columbia International University
- **Link** the team with other Vineyards/partnerships in the region
- **Start** your own Vineyard partnership and recruit within the Vineyard movement
- **Host** a Muslim Summit at your church
- **Make sure** your worker has the needed work skills and experience. It is best to have a marketable skill with the education to back it.



## Tools and resources...

- Blessing Muslims ([www.vineyardusa.org](http://www.vineyardusa.org))
- Vineyard Missions ([www.vineyardmissions.org](http://www.vineyardmissions.org))
- Important books on Christian-Muslim Relations: An Annotated Bibliography by David Johnston and Rick Love ([www.vineyardusa.org](http://www.vineyardusa.org))
- See <http://www.uga.edu/islam/> and <http://whyislam.org/> as two examples of websites that can help you understand Islam from a Muslim perspective.
- See the Vineyard Check List for Long-Term Cross-Cultural Workers by Jerry Reddix [http://www.vineyardmissions.org/images/Long-Term\\_Cross-Cultural\\_Worker\\_LTCCW\\_Check\\_List\\_for\\_Church\\_Partnership\\_Agency\\_and\\_LTCCW.pdf](http://www.vineyardmissions.org/images/Long-Term_Cross-Cultural_Worker_LTCCW_Check_List_for_Church_Partnership_Agency_and_LTCCW.pdf)



### 3. Engage Muslims nearby

- **Find** Muslims in your community ([www.Islamicfinder.org](http://www.Islamicfinder.org))
  - Check out [www.peace-catalyst.net](http://www.peace-catalyst.net) for creative ways to get to know Muslims in your community
- **Work** with Muslims in community projects
  - Visit the mosque and get to know the leaders
- **Connect** with international services, organizations and ministries in a nearby University or College

- Contact Craig Simonian  
Vineyard Pastor  
[craigsimonian@gmail.com](mailto:craigsimonian@gmail.com)
- Contact Andy Saperstein  
Vineyard Pastor  
[Andy.Saperstein@vineyardcolumbus.org](mailto:Andy.Saperstein@vineyardcolumbus.org)



## Tools and resources...

- *Vision of the Possible*, by Daniel Sinclair
- *From Seed to Fruit*, by Dudley Woodberry
- *Serving as Senders*, by Neal Pirolo

### 4. Engage Muslims internationally

- **Discern** what city and country to work in
- **Determine** the kind of work that makes sense in the host country and that fits the person's gifts, skill set and educational background (e.g., business, education, relief and development)
- **Secure** a good job in the host country or have a well thought out plan to do so
- **Develop** a budget and raise the needed money for the move and other contingencies
- **Recruit and form** a Home Support Team of people dedicated to assisting your international staff
  - With finances
  - With logistics
  - With travel needs
  - With prayer
- **Maintain** a strong, consistent financial support base where necessary
- **Consider** partnering with organizations that have experience bearing respectful witness to Muslims
  - Frontiers (<http://frontiers.org/>)
  - Pioneers ([www.pioneers.org/](http://www.pioneers.org/))
  - Peace Catalyst International ([www.peace-catalyst.net](http://www.peace-catalyst.net))
- **Organize** a strong prayer team for your worker

## 5. Support those who are engaging Muslims

- Make sure your international staff have at least one **coaching visit** per year
- Find out about conferences and **further training** that will strengthen them
- Practice quality care through **regular communication**
  - On the field (telephone, email, Skype, etc.)
  - Thorough debriefing and support during home leaves
  - With your **church**. Keep them **informed** about what's going on with the international staff and consistently motivated to pray
- **Connect** them with other Vineyard people in the region
- Facilitate the worker's attendance at international and regional **meetings**
- **Consult** with Jerry Reddix and Mobile Care Team as needed  
jerry.reddix@vineyardmissions.org

### Tools and resources...

- Vineyard Mobile Care Team  
Jerry Reddix, Mobile Care Facilitator  
(jerry.reddix@vineyardmissions.org)
- Barnabas International (www.barnabas.org)
- Missionary Care  
(www.missionarycare.com)