

Introducing the Muslim Engagement Team...

God has blessed the Vineyard with a world-class Muslim Engagement Team (MET). The MET assists the Vineyard to minister to, with, and among Muslims here and internationally. Our goal is to:

- Raise awareness about Muslims
- Train people to become peacemakers and live as communities of reconciliation in their attitudes toward Muslims and in their relationships with Muslims
- Equip people to effectively bear witness to Muslims about Jesus the Messiah
- Speak, coach and consult about Muslims

As Consultant for Christian-Muslim Relations in the Vineyard, USA, Rick Love serves as the team leader of the MET. Here is a brief bio about each member:

Carl Medearis: Carl lived for 12 years in Beirut, Lebanon and has served almost 20 years among Muslims. He is active in the National Prayer Breakfast and is a popular speaker on topics related to Christian-Muslim relations. He is the author of *Muslims, Christians and Jesus*.

Chris Medearis: Chris lived in Beirut, Lebanon for 12 years. She reached out to the local school kids, including poor street children. She hosted many events in their home in Beirut with all levels of society, hoping to bring the good news of Jesus to all who entered.

Andy Saperstein: Andy has served over 15 years among Muslims. He has done relief and development work in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He served in the Yale Reconciliation Program for 3 years and currently serves as pastor in the Columbus Vineyard. Andy holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics.

Bill Hanawalt: Bill is the Executive Pastor of the Evanston Vineyard. . Bill received his Bachelors degree from Yale University and completed his seminary training (M.Div.) at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (now Trinity International University) in Deerfield, Illinois. He coordinates the church's global outreach in Kenya, Central and South Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Bill serves as a coach for church pastors in the U.S. and long-term cross-cultural workers overseas.

Grace Schmelzer: Grace is a co-lead pastor of the Greater Boston Vineyard with her husband, Dave. God has given Grace a particular love for the Arab Muslim world and for raising up cross-cultural workers who will be a blessing to their Muslim friends and co-workers as well as host countries.

Tim McDonell: has been a member of the Channel Islands Vineyard for 27 years. During this time Tim served as the head of World Ministries where he led short term teams to Mexico and Indonesia. He is currently active with the Channel Islands Vineyard in blessing the homeless and those humbled by life's circumstances in the community. Tim recently retired as a captain from the Los Angeles City Fire Department after serving for 32 years.

David L. Johnston: David served for sixteen years as a pastor and teacher in Algeria, Egypt and the West Bank. He later graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary with a PhD in Intercultural Studies, with a specialty in Islamics. He spent five years as a postdoctoral fellow and part-time lecturer at Yale University, and is currently teaching as an adjunct lecturer at both the University of Pennsylvania and St. Joseph's University.

Robby Dawkins: Robby pastors the Vineyard Church of Aurora, IL. He travels extensively putting on power evangelism conferences (including several Muslim countries). He has a passion for equipping people to bless Muslims with Kingdom encounters.

Craig Simonian: Craig worked in Muslim Central Asia for five years. He then returned to the US where he founded the Vineyard Community Church in Morristown, NJ. Craig has been involved in ministry to bless Muslims for over 17 years and has taught several courses and seminars on Islam. He serves on the Vineyard's Mission Task Force for the Eastern Region. He received his Masters from Alliance Theological Seminary.

Fran Love: Fran has 30 years experience among Muslims. She was born and raised in Indonesia and later lived there with her husband Rick for 8 years. Fran has travelled throughout the Muslim world. She holds an M.A. in Intercultural Studies and is co-editor of *Longing to Call them Sisters*.

Rick Love: Rick has 30 years experience among Muslims. He lived in Indonesia for 8 years and has travelled extensively throughout the Muslim world. He has written two

books and numerous articles on Christian-Muslim relations. He holds a Th.M. in New Testament, a D.Min. in Urban Studies and a Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies.

Dr. Bill Clark: Bill served among Muslims in Central Asia from 1985-2009. During the current 2010-2011 academic year, he is a Visiting Scholar at the University of Washington. He and his wife, Julie, serve on the pastoral team at the Seattle Vineyard.

Luc Jackson: Luc has spent time in both Egypt as well as Indonesia, and he leads the Global Connections efforts at his local Vineyard Church. He has dear friendships among the Muslim community in his area and together with Muslims and Christians he is pursuing relationship and dialogue between the two communities. Luc has a Master's of Ministry from St. Stephen's University and is planning to pursue a PhD in Intercultural Studies.

For more information contact [Tim McDonell](#), Executive Assistant to Rick Love