

# MOVING **4** WORD

Volume 2 • 2013

A Publication of SOW International

## THE BIBLE: The Answer to the Challenge of Islam

*For one young man born and bred in the Shiite sect in the Middle East, reading the Scriptures for the first time had an effect that was more than profound.*

Ahmed practiced his religious duties from an early age. He read the Qu'ran and prayed daily. As a teenager he was regularly at the mosque for teaching and prayers. What he knew about Christianity came from Islamic teachers. To Ahmed, Islam was the true faith. But when a classmate offered him a Bible in his native language, little did he know that his life would soon make a dramatic shift.

Full of vigor, Ahmed delved into the Bible, but not out of curiosity. "My main intention was to prove that Islam was correct," he says. "I wanted to prove for myself the things I believed about Christians were true. I started reading it, looking for as many faults as I could find. I often wondered if there were so many faults in the Injil, why did the

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## The Significance of One Boy and One Book

*The Bengali Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in one volume) is unique. Since over 82% of the Bengali people are Muslim, this translation of the Scriptures uses religious terms that are familiar to Muslims and is radically transforming the Muslim community into followers of Jesus.*

He had just finished reading the message of Jesus in the recently produced Bengali Gospels. So affected and moved by what he read, the young Muslim boy was compelled to respond. However, he did not know exactly what he was supposed to do. So, he gave the book to his mother. She is a School Teacher in the village and has a great deal of influence within the community.

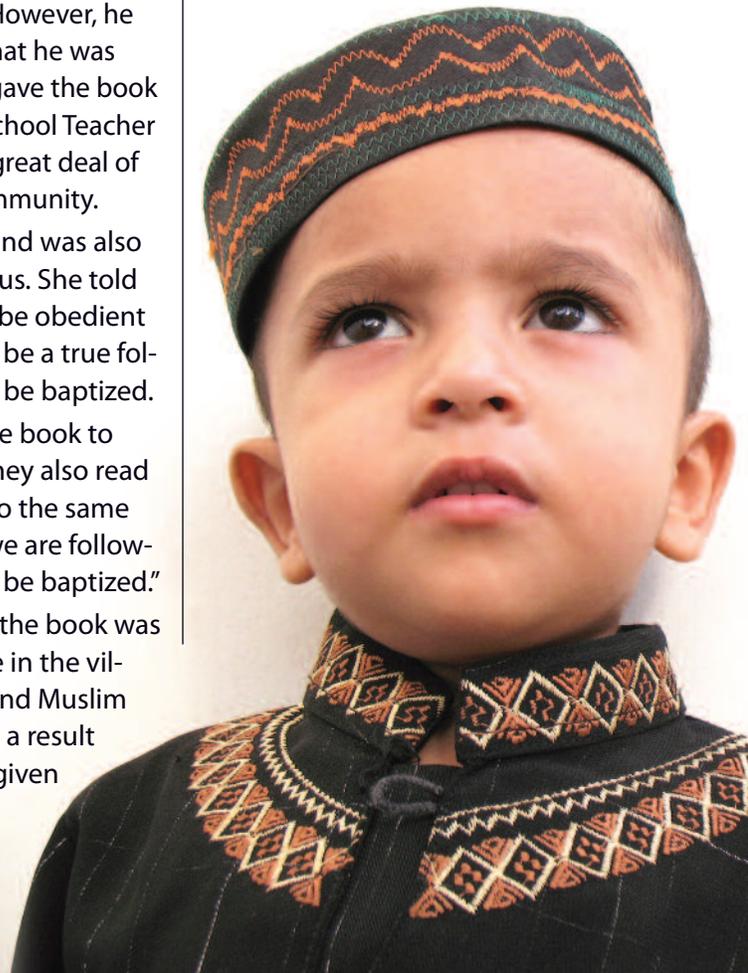
She read the book and was also compelled to follow Jesus. She told her son that in order to be obedient to the Scriptures and to be a true follower of Jesus, we must be baptized.

The mother gave the book to several of her friends. They also read the Gospels and came to the same conclusion, "Now that we are followers of Jesus, we need to be baptized."

Within a few weeks the book was read by nearly everyone in the village, including Imams and Muslim leadership. Currently, as a result of this one book being given and read by one boy, there are nearly 1,000 people in the village

waiting to be baptized — an expression of their obedience to the teachings of Jesus. All are Muslim. All are now followers of Jesus the Messiah!

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## THE BIBLE *continued*

Christians not know about them!"

After completing his first reading of the Scriptures, he emerged empty-handed. He found no faults. His second and third passes delivered the same results.

"I began to wonder what about this book was so wrong," he recalls. "I found that all I had been told about Christianity from my Islamic sources was not true! Now I had to deal with individual beliefs to determine what was true and what was not."

### **One of the initial objections of a Muslim is the misconception of Jesus being the physical Son of God.**

"For me, believing that God had a physical relationship with Mary was blasphemy. But when I read Luke 1:31-35, it became clear that no physical relationship existed between God and Mary. It was a spiritual matter. The Holy Spirit overshadowed

her, begetting the Son of God."

### **The next hurdle was the idea of Christians worshipping three gods.**

But "looking in Mark 12:29, I found that Jesus very clearly says that there is one and only one God."

**A third issue was the death of Jesus.** "I was taught that it wasn't Isa (Jesus) who died. According to Muslim tradition, since Jesus was God's prophet, God would not allow Him to die such a horrible death. So God changed the face of Judas Iscariot to look like Jesus and it was Judas who was crucified instead. But then I read that Jesus' mother was present at His crucifixion. I asked myself, 'If Mary was a holy person, as the Qu'ran says, then why didn't God reveal to her that it was someone else that died on the cross?'"

### **The last point that nagged Ahmed was the Word of God itself.**

"When I read the high moral and practical teachings of Jesus, I could not deny the words and teachings of the Injil. According to Islam, I was a very good person, but when I read the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, I realized that it was my heart and thoughts that were wrong! This teaching is absent in Islam."

When Ahmed realized that he was sinful even in his nature and that he needed a Savior, his life took a 180-degree turn. "I gave my life to Jesus and he changed me from

the inside. My thoughts, and intentions were transformed! I still have many things that are difficult in my life, but God has provided new strength. To Him I offer the praise for my life."

Ahmed's faith is testimony to the fact that the Word of God can bear any scrutiny, pierce any culture and dispel any misconception. Realizing the truth of the Bible and its power to save even the skeptic, Ahmed has dedicated his life to providing the Scriptures to his people. ✨

## One Boy and One Book

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The Word of God is powerful. It does what it says it will do. When the Scriptures are made available and use language and terms that are read with understanding, it changes lives — eternally.

This story is not unique. It is happening throughout the region as the Scriptures are being distributed. SOW International has printed 40,000 Bengali Gospels. Our goal is 600,000. There is an estimated 350 million Bengalis worldwide.

It's working. The Scriptures are making a difference! ✨

To learn more about SOW International's initiative to provide the Scriptures specifically to children, visit our website at [www.bibles4children.com](http://www.bibles4children.com).



"The sweet is the word of God." - Luke 1:1

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