

Reconciliation Report

CHRISTIAN “JIHAD”



Jim Sutherland, Ph.D., Director

5608 Bradford Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37409-2211

Phone: 423.822.1091
Fax: 423.822.1091
Email: Jim@RMNI.org

*Researching, Teaching,
Mobilizing, for the Name—
Serving Primarily the Afri-
can American Church*

Inside this issue:

Praise & Prayer Points	2
Christian "Jihad"	2-3

RMNI.org

WebWatch:

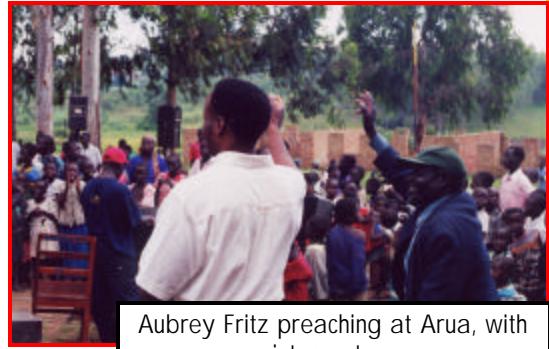
- Www.youthspecialties.com—Excellent stats and information on youth ministry
- Www.Gospelcom.net/apologeticsindex/index.html —A-Z Cults, sects
- <http://www.strategicnetwork.org/index.asp?loc=kb>
Here is a great data base of solid articles on missions.

More on Uganda in the next Report.

This Uganda trip, September 9-30th, was the first in which America changed more than did the Team. On September 11, 2001 I was in Arua, Uganda, a strong Muslim area, and the doctor on our team, Yolanda Spraggins, was at a clinic in 95% Muslim country, two and a half hours north. I'd just finished teaching and fielding questions when the Tuesday call arrived from Rashid Luswa, our coordinator, that America was "at war." I believed him because of our friendship, and asked him to call back in 3 hours, to give time to hear news reports and decide what to do. We were transfixed by the Voice of America, located on the battery radio with the help of flashlights. We found no need to abandon the mission, but had to pray not to let the attack become the focus of the work barely begun. It dawned upon me by Thursday morning, that should the US retaliate immediately, we were exposed, so arranged to keep vehicles primed for immediate departure. We weren't afraid, by God's grace and the prayers of many. The Sudanese, and Ugandans were deeply sympathetic and empathetic, and prayed for us publicly. We were with "family."

Islam has never lost, nor has Christianity, its territorial imperative. Historian Kenneth Scott LaTourette noted that "Christianity has never regained most of the territory which it lost to Islam."¹ While Christianity is the largest world religion (about 33%), Islam is second (about 20%)². The competing truth claims may be advanced by reason or by force. In the Koran we find, "Let there be no compulsion in religion. Truth stands out clear from error: whoever rejects evil and believes in Allah hath grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold, that never breaks."³ But various Koranic verses, for all Muslims to read, advocate violence against non-Muslims:

"Therefore, when ye meet the Unbelievers (in fight), smite at their necks; at length, when ye have thoroughly subdued them, bind a bond firmly (on them): thereafter (is the time for) either generosity or ransom: Until the war lays down its burdens. Thus (are ye commanded): but if it had been God's Will, He could certainly have exacted retribution from them (Himself); but (He lets you fight) in order to test you, some with others. But those who are slain in the way of God, He will never let their deeds be lost. 5 Soon will He



Aubrey Fritz preaching at Arua, with interpreter.

guide them and improve their condition. 6 And admit them to the Garden which He has announced for them. 7 O ye who believe! if ye will aid (the cause of) God, He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly. 8 But those who reject (God), for them is destruction, and (God) will render their deeds astray (from their mark)."⁴

Sometimes there is compulsion without overt violence. Have you ever seen a sign on a church reading: "None to be worshipped but Jesus Christ"? Can you read "None to be worshipped but Allah" on the mosque in northwestern Uganda pictured on page 1? Sharia, or Muslim law in Nigeria and Sudan reaches ever southward. This is one of the main reasons for the rebellion of the Christian and animist southern Sudanese. The Taliban use it.

The spokesman for the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, which is fighting the northern Islamic regime, wrote:

"This experience [Uganda 2001] has given me a new perspective about life and God's purpose for me."
Aubrey Fritz

"The tragic events of September 11, 2001 in New York and Washington, DC have clearly demonstrated the ability of Islamic Jihad to effectively utilize the fundamentals of democratic governance -- freedom, liberty, pluralism and tolerance -- in advancing the *cardinal principle of Islamic fundamentalism*. That is, the mission of each and every Muslim extremist is to spread Islam by sword or force, with the sole aim of establishing the (Islamic) Umma or Nation in all Muslim countries and eventually the whole world. This is the meaning of the present war of International Islamic Jihad. From the perspective of a Muslim extremist, Jihad war is not at all terrorism, but rather simply the implementation of Allah's will. This is a very important distinction that should be kept in mind when dealing with International Islamic Jihad. Perhaps the time has come for the world to call a spade a spade -- and in this particular case, we would think that the most appropriate terminology to use is *International Islamic Jihad*."⁵

While obviously the small minority within Islam is violent, I think it is a mistake to attempt to disassociate Islam from terrorism. There are certainly non-violent Muslims and Muslim leaders. But what presumed ring-leader Mohammed Atta and Bin Laden say prohibit us from disassociating them. Atta wrote, "But only those, the believers who know the life after death and the reward after death, would be the ones who will be seeking death." The suicide bombers are motivated in part by the desire to enjoy a very sensual



Pediatrician Dr. Yolanda Spraggins working with the Safe Harbor Christian Clinic at Midigo, in extreme NW Uganda.

Prayer and Praise Points:



↑ By God's grace and your prayers, I was ready for all the teaching and preaching responsibilities. At the last minute I brought a laptop, which was a tremendous help.
↑ God was pleased to lead at least 94 to profess Christ. Please pray for their discipleship by local Christians with whom we worked.
↑ Please pray for the Lord of the Harvest to recruit workers for the

Uganda 2002 Team
↑ God protected our families during our absence. This despite the master brake cylinder giving out while Judy drove.
↑ Please continue to pray for a successful school year for Tim and Ethan (both at LeTourneau), and for Susanna (at UT-Knoxville) and for a great year for Naomi at UT-Chattanooga. Ethan faces difficult tests and Susanna just sprained

her ankle.
↑ The Uganda Team had only minor sicknesses and none that seriously impeded ministry.
↑ The Sudanese and Ugandans received the ministry well. We have at least 3 invitations to serve in 2002.
↑ Please pray for restoration of shoulders and back for Jim and discipline to do specific exercises.

"Paradise," complete with virgins and delicacies. Bin Laden said, "I swear by God...neither America nor the people who live in it will dream of security...before all the infidel armies leave the land of Muhammad, peace be upon him."⁷ The Islamic Jihad and Hamas have sent more than 20 suicide bombers in 2001.⁸ Jihad is, of course, "holy" war. Patriots face the possibility of death, and may even volunteer for "suicide missions," but suicide bombers usually have an eschatology.

Muslims are not our real enemy—nor are pagans the enemy. The Enemy is Satan who blinds—how he blinds—the minds of unbelievers. One of Atta's prayers was: "I pray to you God to forgive me from all my sins, to allow me to glorify you in every possible way" as he flew into the Trade Center towers. No clearer picture of Satan's destroying character is imaginable than the twin Trade Towers on fire, with thousands of non-combatants being destroyed inside. While extremists lodge in all world religions, Islam and Christianity are most aggressive in their truth claims,

and I think we are on a collision course.



Bertha Lloyd and Aubrey Fritz with Sudanese Christians going house-to-house evangelizing at Arua.

Our earthly security is less important than our eternal destiny (but we pray for missionary security). We are not to fear those who can kill the body⁹. Part of overcoming evil with good is sharing Christ with Muslims, showing love in this way—not fearing them. There are now over 1200 mosques and perhaps 6 million Muslims in the US¹⁰. This is Christian jihad, if you will, "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."¹¹ While there are

psalms of cursing (imprecatory psalms), and while I think Ps. 94 is a good psalm for terrorists, our ethics are superceded by the New Testament. A number of the 94 who professed Christ in Uganda this year were Muslims. Aubrey Fritz led about 6-7 young men to Christ at a predominately Moslem school. Talk of your *personal relationship* to God, who is a God not aloof, but a loving Father. Talk of Christ paying our way into heaven, opened by faith, not works. Ask how they deal with their personal sin. Like a good doctor, diagnose what they personally believe before prescribing the cure. Be willing to engage their faith, even if it brings discomfort. Consider supporting those working especially in Islamic harvest fields. Here are some excellent websites to learn about Islam and evangelizing Muslims:

»<http://www.letusreason.org/Islamdir.htm> »<http://www.answersing-islam.org/> »<http://members.aol.com/alnour/> »http://www.atlanticchristian.org/world/Apologetics/Religions/Islam/Main_Resources/ This is a directory of links.



Pediatrics ward at the Christian "Safe Harbor" rural clinic at Midigo, NW Uganda. The area is 95% Muslim. Notice no electrical plugs.

¹ History of Christianity, Vol. 1, p. 376, ISBN: 1565633288

² "An Overview of the World by Religious Adherents" from the *Mission Frontiers* June 2000 edition.

³ Surah 2:256

⁴ Surah 47:4, "Jihad," found at *Answering Islam*, <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/9465/>

⁵ Dr. Samson L. Kwaje Commissioner for Information and SPLM/SPLA Official Spokesman 10/6/01 email.

⁶ Karen Gullo, "Hijackers carried detailed, spiritual instruction document", AP, *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, 10/29/01, A3.

⁷ AP, "Bin Laden praises God for attacks against US", *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, 10/8/01, A4.

⁸ Greg Myre, "Suicide bomber kills Israeli; Palestinian slain in Hebron," AP, *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, 10/8/01, A6.

⁹ Matthew 10:28

¹⁰ Cathy Grossman, "Islam grows in America," *USA Today*, 4/26/01, 7D.

¹¹ 2 Corinthians 10:5, NIV.