



Chicagoland Lutheran Muslim Mission Association

## كنيسة السلام في شيكاغو Update—Summer 2012

### A Testimony from Muhammad Al-bess

I was born in Jerusalem in 1985 to a very religious Muslim family in Palestine. My family members are Muslims. As a child, my grandfather and father would give me a beating if I did not go to the mosque and learn the teachings of Islam.

The majority of the population of Palestine is Muslim. A few exceptions are the cities of Ramallah and Bethlehem. Christians have been leaving Ramallah and Bethlehem because of persecution by Muslims. Muslims are killing and encouraging people to kill in the name of Islam any who are not Muslim. Muslim clerics were preaching that Christians are "crusaders", and instigate the Muslim population against Christians and Jews.

I didn't believe this was true and started investigating Christianity and found out that it encourages love and tolerance among people. Later, I saw Jesus in a dream. He extended his hand to me, saying "I will open your heart to the Truth and help you." I realized then that Jesus Christ

is the son of God. That happened in the summer of 2002.

I worked for a Palestinian company and met some Christians who became my friends. I secretly went to church with them for three years. I asked to be baptized but they refused because they were afraid of persecution and that their church might be burned down.

My Muslim co-workers found out I was going to church and began insulting me too. I was forced to resign and my Christian friends were also fired. While I attended the university, my friends learned I followed Christ and they beat me and threatened to kill me. I dropped out and was afraid I would be killed.

I immigrated to the United States and was Baptized on February 26, 2012. I am taking college classes and one day plan to be a Christian Pastor.



Mahmoud, a young Shiite Iranian was called to faith in Christ and will be baptized at our new location, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Batavia in November of 2012.



### Our Territory is Expanding!

God has blessed Salam and expanded our territory!

More refugees are moving out to a low income facility in Batavia, so Salam has started a new site for worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Batavia, IL.

#### **Salam Fellowship Saturday Services:**

**12:30 PM** Peace Lutheran Church  
21W500 Butterfield Road  
Lombard, Ill 60148

**5:30 PM** Immanuel Lutheran Church  
950 Hart Road  
Batavia, Illinois 60510

#### **Contact Pastor Hicham Chehab**

c/o Peace Lutheran Church  
21W500 Butterfield Road  
Lombard, Ill 60148  
Phone: 331-645-0650  
Email: [HICHAM.CHEHAB@gmail.com](mailto:HICHAM.CHEHAB@gmail.com)

## Opportunities to Serve & Support

### Benevolence

This Arabic outreach, mostly to refugees, provides for people's needs as an entry point into their lives – that's how an ethnic ministry operates. Both money and volunteers enable this ministry to meet those needs and open doors through which these new souls can encounter the Gospel. Hence, benevolence is a very important part of this ministry. It is estimated that at least \$ 500 are needed monthly to help support low income or no-income refugees who attend Salam.

### Financial Support:

A monthly gift in the amount of:

- \$120 will provide pain medication
- \$60 can pay for a week of gas to transport people for fellowship
- \$1400 will pay for each class Muhammad takes to become a pastor
- \$5 a week will pay for Hicham to meet with a Muslim over coffee.
- \$150 pays for a meal for Salam Fellowship.
- \$75 a week will pay for a driver to take people to clinics or the public aid office.
- \$10,000 a month will pay for one month of expenses for Salam Christian Fellowship

### Volunteers Needed:

Just as we appreciate and depend on financial assistance from our supporters, we also depend on volunteers to fill many service positions.

Listed here are some of the positions we have an on-going need to fill.

- **Sponsor a meal:** Bring your Bible study or Small group in to provide a meal for fellowship time on a Saturday. This is a wonderful opportunity to show your support and to witness to Muslim people
- **Drivers:** Many of our people are new immigrants and haven't learned how to drive. Many need a ride to doctors and county offices.
- **Musicians:** Play the piano? Has God blessed you with the gift of song? Come and share your special talent

If you would like additional information, or would like to volunteer your time, please contact our staff at 630-666-1930, or email us at [Hicham.chehab@gmail.com](mailto:Hicham.chehab@gmail.com)



## Where is Hicham?



Hicham is blessed to minister at a variety of locations. Listed here are some of the places he's been and he will be going to.

### Where he's been:

- January, 2012: St. John Lutheran Church, Pecatonica, IL
- March, 2012: Churches in Arizona & Utah—Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Mesquite, AZ & Savior Lutheran Church in St. George, UT
- April, 2012: St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Montgomery, IL; Pastoral Conference, New England District; Holy Cross Lutheran, Davenport, IA
- May, 2012: Zion Lutheran Church, Naperville, IL; Messiah Lutheran Church, Sartell, MN; Fellowship of Faith, McHenry, IL
- June, 2012: Living Christ Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, IL; Christ the Rock, Stillman Valley, IL
- July, 2012: Fellowship of Faith, McHenry, IL
- August, 2012: Calvary Lutheran Church, Wetseka, IL
- September 5, 2012: St. Peter Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, IL—6:00 p.m.
- September 11, 2012: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Des Plaines, IL—7:00 p.m.
- September 12, 2012: St. Peter Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, IL—6:00 p.m.
- September 30, 2012: St. Claud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, MN
- October 1, 2012: September 30, 2012: St. Claud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, MN
- October 2, 2012: September 30, 2012: St. Claud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, MN

### Coming Events:

- October 14, 2012: Christ Church of Oak Brook, IL
- November 17, 2012: Trinity Lutheran Church, Burr Ridge, IL
- November 18, 2012: Trinity Lutheran Church, Burr Ridge, IL