



Pastor's Comments

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Jesus Appeared!

Charif Haddad was a teenager in Lebanon when God called him to Christian ministry. Two years ago, he was appointed by the Southern Baptists to work with Michigan's Middle-Eastern people. He found that many Muslim people view Christians as evildoers because of injustices they suffer. Even though he had some credibility as a Palestinian refugee who understood their feelings, Haddad still found it difficult to win the hearts of Muslim people and was tempted to give up. As an example, he told of a Muslim man to whom he ministered for more than a year. Haddad confessed, "I was ready to throw in the towel as I walked to his house during Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month." Haddad could hear the reading from the Koran blaring on tape from the man's home, but God impressed him just to go and to be bold. "Upon offering him a book on the infallibility of the Bible, he requested to meet and talk about the cross. We talked for three weeks, until 2 in the morning. Then I left him for two weeks. When I saw him again, **he had a huge smile on his face. I knew something was different.**" Haddad asked him, "If you were to die today, where will you go?" He smiled and replied, "To heaven, because someone **appeared to me and said, 'I was crucified for you!'** I believe in the Messiah and gave it all to Him." That man suffers persecution for his decision to follow Christ. His parents and siblings have abandoned him, he is unable to see his children and his Muslim landlord asked him to vacate his apartment. Yet, Haddad states, "What a great endorsement it is to have **the Lord appear** to someone you are ministering to and cause such a miraculous change!"

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