

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



LUNCHEON MEETING Thursday, February 5, 2015 – 12:00 noon

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road at Dale Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Opening Announcements

President Bob "Sarge" Sargeant opened the meeting at 12:10 p.m. Rodney Smith celebrated his birthday January 22. There were no February birthdays, nor anniversaries. Dave Lambert and his wife Deborah (Dee) celebrated birthdays in December.

Opening Devotion

Sarge offered a convening and table prayer.

Announcements

Announcements continued after lunch. No information is available as to future LLF meeting speakers, but will be available on our website. Sarge invited attendees to share activities of interest.

Caring & Sharing

Sarge related his AARP work in Richmond over the past few months relating to caregiving for the elderly.

Rodney shared an information sheet on [Lutheran Hour Ministries](#) and details of a future [Mission Trip to Guatemala](#). A grandchild was welcomed to the Smith family.

Carolyn Sowinski announced that checks were sent to beneficiaries from the concert and Christ Lutheran Church's yard sale. More than \$3 million has been distributed over the past ten years to ministries through the [Gifts of Hope](#) program. Dave Lambert noted that he and Dee gave two GOH items as Christmas gifts.

Introduction of Speaker

Some 1.5 million Muslims call North America home but have little opportunity to learn about the Christian faith. As they arrive within our borders, God is making them available to share the love of Christ with them. This follows Christ's command to make disciples of all nations. She has worked in Hispanic ministry in NOVA. She has served on two mission trips to Haiti, and traveled to China as part of an ELCA trip.

Yvette Moy is Crescent Project's Metro D.C. area coordinator. She has been involved with Lutheran outreach to Muslims since 2009. Yvette has a love for Muslim people and a passion to share with them the love of Christ. Her greatest joy is to equip congregations and individuals to share the Gospel with their Muslim friends and neighbors and to fulfill Christ's command to make disciples of all nations.

Yvette has served on the Black, Urban, Multi-Ethnic Ministries Team, Spanish Language Missions Task Force, Multicultural Ministry Team and LINC Metro D.C. of the Southeastern District. Yvette led Hispanic Mission Development of Northern Virginia between 2008-10. She has served on two short-term mission trips to Haiti. In 2007, Yvette was part of the largest Lutheran delegation to visit China.

Presentation

Bridges: Christians Connecting With Muslims

Ms. Moy began her presentation by sharing her own conversion to Christianity while at college in New York through a Lutheran Campus Ministry. While working for Stars and Stripes, a publication of the Dept. of Defense, she was encouraged by her church to develop this ministry to the growing population in NOVA. Lutheran Pakistanis in Detroit began convening activities. A Franciscan encouraged her to consider this ministry. She said she felt like Jonah, constantly telling God "no." She finally agreed to go on a trip to Turkey, where she saw sites holy to Christianity and to Islam.

Yvette described her learning about the tradition of Islam, such as that of head covering as a way to honor God. She reminded that not that long ago Christian women practiced a similar reverence by wearing hats in church. While in Turkey, she followed St. Paul's travels, noting that he is mentioned in the Quran. Next she travelled to the Holy Land with a District group (LCMS). There she met Bedouins, and after seven years decided to say "yes" to God. Over time, God changed her heart to not fear the people He was calling her to minister to. She found and participated in Sahara Challenge, a Bible class on how to talk to Muslims. Crescent Project provides training, six weeks of congregational study. Through her Hispanic ministry, she learned that South Americans have raised up hundreds of missionaries to Muslim countries.

There are ½ million Muslims living in the United States. 80% of them are seekers, interested in dialogue and what Christianity is about, something they couldn't do in their

home countries. Once talking they learned of similarities. Their tradition of memorizing the Quran carries over, into memorizing great portions of the New Testament. They recognize Christians as being more helpful and loving than their Muslim counterparts.

She showed a video of the Crescent Project . The video gave an introduction to the development of Islam, with Muhammad as God's Messenger. Muhammad became such a revered figure that followers tried to strictly imitate him. But soon thereafter, factions developed , having differing interpretations of Muhammad's death. They together became an overarching force throughout the lands known as Arabia, now largely Northern Africa and the Middle East. Sunnah followers and Shia followers live in distinct areas. There are many commonalities between Christian and Muslim beliefs through which to begin dialogue. Muhammad's first wife was Christian. He abolished infanticide. He banned polytheism. In Christianity you are raised to worship God. In Islam you are raised to be obedient to God. The Quran has become a power object. The Hadith details the life of Muhammad and is part of the traditions Muslims follow. Today there are more than 200 sects in Islam.

90% of International Muslim students here say they were never invited into Americans homes. Hospitality is a major tradition to Islam, so they are disappointed in not receiving the traditional hospitality they are used to. Muslims are required to read the Old Testament. They also love the Psalms and several New Testament books. Memorization of the Quran is an important tradition that newcomers here are carrying over into memorizing major sections of our Bible as they learn about Christianity.

Yvette is supported by seven Lutheran congregation in NOVA. She must raise her own support funds. She'll be teaching at St. Mark, Springfield and at a women's group in an African American church in Reston. Refugees from Afghanistan and Iraq are being relocated here. LIRS and LSS are active in this refugee resettlement effort. She welcomes the opportunity to attend our congregations and tell of her ministry.

Discussion focused on the difficulties of bridging two cultures, or multi-cultures. Muslim men generally speak to men, women to women. Only in longstanding relationships is there cross-gender discussion.

Brochures about the Crescent Project were made available and can be accessed via the following links:

- [Yvette Moy Information](#) (*also attached to these meeting minutes*)
- [BRIDGES: Christians Connecting with Muslims](#)
- [Sahara Challenge 2015 Seminary-level Training](#)

Closing Devotion

The meeting concluded with those attending praying The Lord's Prayer.

THE MUSLIM MISSION SOCIETY



Provides spiritual and financial support for Yvette Moy so that she can work full time as a field worker for the Crescent Project's outreach ministry in the Washington, D.C. area. As a field worker for the Crescent Project Yvette is developing Christian leaders to reach out with the Gospel to their Muslim neighbors and training leaders to grow this outreach ministry. With God's help we seek to develop an evangelical missionary movement in Northern Virginia, Maryland and the Washington, D.C. metro area that will bring the Gospel to the Muslim community.

As Members of the Muslim Mission Society we are committed:

- a. *To pray for Yvette and the outreach of the Gospel to Muslims*
- b. *To assist Yvette in raising support for her ministry as a Field Worker for the Crescent Project. The support raising goal is to raise \$75,000 by December 2015*
- c. *To educate Congregations and Christian leaders to the opportunities for outreach to the Muslim community with the Gospel and to equip disciples to do this Gospel ministry in the Washington D.C. area.*
- d. *To provide feedback and direction for the regional work Yvette is doing for the Crescent Project*
- e. *To identify and recruit person of peace to assist us in bridging the cultural gap that exists between peoples and to aid in the communication of the Gospel.*

