

Meeting Muslims: Questions About Islam

by Tal Davis

"Hi, my name is Hassan. We just moved here. Can I play with you guys?"

"Sure!" answered Anthony. Everyone was impressed with Hassan's game. "You're good!" commented Anthony. "We could use you on our church team. We play down at Third Avenue Baptist. Interested?"

"I don't know, I'll have to check with my parents. We're Muslims."

Muslims have no assurance they will go to heaven when they die.

Almost every day in the news you hear about people called Muslims. Muslims, like Hassan's family, follow a religion called Islam. About five million people in Canada and the United States are Muslims. Many current world events, including terrorist attacks and wars, involve Muslims. This has led many people to wonder about them. Let's look at several questions kids ask about Muslims.

What Do Muslims Believe?

Muslims believe, as do Christians, that there is only one God. They call Him by the name *Allah*. However, they disagree with Christians about what God is like, especially that He exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Islam does not teach Jesus is the Son of God or that He was crucified and rose from the dead.

They believe that to go to heaven a person must be obedient to Allah's commands. However, even the best Muslims have no assurance they will go to heaven when they die.

Where Do Their Beliefs Come From?

The founder of Islam was a man named Muhammad (A.D. 570-632) who lived in

what is now Saudi Arabia. They believe heavenly angels gave him messages from Allah that were put in Islam's holy book called the Qur'an. Muslims believe the Bible is not reliable.

Are All Muslims Terrorists and Warlike?

Some Muslims' actions around the world have given people the idea that *all* Muslims are terrorists and warlike. Actually, most Muslims oppose terrorism and want to live in peace. Just because someone is Muslim does not mean he is hateful or should be feared.

How Should Christians Respond to Muslims?

Christians should treat Muslims, like Anthony's new friend Hassan, with respect. That does not mean we agree with many of the teachings of Islam. Christians do not believe Muhammad was a prophet or that the Qur'an is a holy book. We believe Jesus is indeed the One and only Son of God. Salvation is received by believing in Him as our personal Savior and Lord. We can know we will go to heaven because Jesus died for our sins on the cross and rose again. Perhaps, during their next game, Anthony will share about Jesus with Hassan. 