

FOR THE LOVE OF MUSLIMS

Lessons for Online Missionaries dealing with Muslims

Lesson 27: I'm Willing to Relocate for Christ

Respected Sir,

I am a 37-year-old married Pakistani national. I have completed my master's in business administration, specializing in human resources and working as a manager in a national concern.

I have been studying Christianity for past 13 years and believe that Christianity is indeed the true religion. I have accepted Christ as my savior and intend to convert to Christianity.

Sir, the laws of my country do not permit conversion from Islam. However, for Christ I am very willing to relocate. Please advise and help me in this regard. I request you in the name of Jesus Christ - the only Son of God.

*Regards,
Mohammad*

How would you respond to this email? At first glance, it seems Mohammad is in a difficult situation. He wants to follow Christ, but converting to Christianity is illegal in his country. It is important to encourage him honor the laws of his country to the best of his ability. (See Daniel 1 & 3 for how Daniel dealt with different situations – remember that the king and his officials regarded him with respect.) In the West, we often find it too easy to say that we should resist the government when its laws are against God's standards. Sometimes, it might be that we don't think creatively enough so that we can maintain our witness and show respect to the government *simultaneously*.

Think about how the U.S. was founded – by rebelling against the existing powers for more freedoms. Western Christians can sometimes overemphasize freedom, so we should be cautious about how we relate this to our Muslim friends in South Asia. When it comes down to it, God's laws are far more important than man's laws, but we should be very cautious as to how and when we apply this principle. Remember that Jesus paid taxes, kept the Jewish feasts, and showed respect to those in authority.

Another thing to note about this email is that the motives might not be what they seem. As we mentioned before, sometimes a person is just looking for a job or for a way to get to a western country. From Mohammad's email, it seems like he might be giving his resume and looking for a job. Of course, looking for a job or for a way to get to a Western country is not a bad thing! However, don't feel guilty or obligated to help him in the way he asks. Also, it may be that he's

not even interested in Christianity. As always, whatever his motive, it's great that he sent an email because that gives you an opportunity to share the gospel!

Mohammad needs to be encouraged that it *is* possible for him to remain in his country and follow Jesus there. Who will tell his countrymen about Jesus if believers leave the country? And again, we must accept our limitations as Online Missionaries. It isn't possible for us to assist someone with so complex a task as relocating to another country. It may hard for him, if he is genuinely seeking to follow Christ. Pray for him and assure him that you are doing so. But relocation isn't really the best solution most of the time.

Send comments/questions to flmcomments@nayajeevan.org