

## Examples of Cruciformity

### **1. Anonymous Lebanese Woman**

Member of Hizbollah is Led to Jesus by a Messianic Jew<sup>1</sup>

The following is a "heavy" story as told to Mark A. Gabriel and recorded in his book, *Islam and the Jews*. Be sure to read his own story also—#9

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In 1967, after the Six-Day War, and after the black July when the Jordanian king was killing thousands of Palestinians in Jordan, I felt that I had to stand with the Palestinians and do whatever I could. I started to collect food and clothes in and around where I lived, and I put them in a container, taking it to the Palestinian refugees. The picture was starting to become clear more and more about the conflict in the Middle East between the Arab Muslims and the Jews.

I started to believe that Israel had no right to exist in the Middle East because the land was a Muslim one. I believed that it was not promised for the Jews. I was taught it should be an Islamic state and a Palestinian nation there—not Israel, not for the Jews.

In 1975, after the death of my father, I decided to join the Muslim militant group fighting the Israelis in South Lebanon [Hizbollah]. I became a trainer, training the young people how to use the weapons [guns, rockets] and how to fight the Jews in South Lebanon.

I lived for five years after my father's death struggling with the ideology and teaching of Islam. During these years of struggling I harbored great anger and hatred, not only toward the Jews, but also toward the Arab countries that acted so weak and forgot their responsibility to stand in the face of the Jews and to fight them and to liberate Palestine from the Jewish hands.

My disappointment with Arabs and the Arabic countries was always making me question, "Allah, Where are you?"

When I started reading the Quran, I realized that this problem wasn't just between Muslims and Jews; it was between Allah and the Jews first. In the midst of this situation, I started to ask myself whether Allah were on the side of the Jews, because the Jews never stopped beating the Arabs when they fought with one another. In 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973—in all these wars the Jews were always victorious. So if there were a God who cared for them to help them win, it must be a different God from the one I knew. I started searching for this God.

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<sup>1</sup> Gabriel, Mark A. *Islam and the Jews: The Unfinished Battle* (Lake Mary, FL, FrontLine, 2003) 185-187

My father had been desirous of me to leave Lebanon and go to the United States to have a peaceful and stable life. Several years after his death, I felt I had to be faithful to him and leave the Middle East to live in the United States.

The Lord did a miracle in my life when I came to the United States. I visited an American church, and there I met a Jewish woman who had accepted the Lord Jesus. She worshiped in this church. We started a friendship, and she shared Jesus with me. Through her the Lord delivered me from Islam and drew me into His kingdom and His family.

The most exciting thing about God's plan for my life was that He used a Jewish woman to tell me about Jesus and to lead me to Him. The Lord destroyed every wall between me and the Jews. The Lord destroyed the stronghold of Islam and the hatred that I grew up with toward the Jews. He united me with this Jewish woman to be sisters in the blood of Jesus Christ.

Before I was saved, I believed that Jerusalem would be delivered from the hands of the Jews and returned to the Muslims. All my prayers to Allah were for him to be with the Muslims and give them victory over the Jewish nation. After I got saved, the stronghold of racism against non-Muslims, especially the Jews, fell down in a pile of ashes. Today I do not pray for one nation—I pray for the entire world, including Muslims and Jews, to come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. I believe there isn't anyone who can reconcile the Muslim and the Jew except Jesus. He is the only one who can establish peace in the Middle East through both Jews and Muslims accepting Him and being redeemed by His blood.

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"Conclusion" by the author, Mark A. Gabriel:

I believe we will hear more testimonies like these as God moves among Muslim people. The events of September 11, 2001 have had a positive effect on Muslim evangelism. That day showed the whole world, including Muslims, how ugly Islam is. By my estimation, more Muslims were converted to Christianity in the year after September 11 than have been converted in the past two hundred years.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Mark A. Gabriel, 187