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# BRIDGES OF FAITH

The Evangelical Christian-Muslim Dialogue Group

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## Chicago, Illinois - Nov. 2-4, 2006

First Meeting of The Evangelical Christian-Muslim Dialogue

Theme: *"Justice in Evangelical Christian and Islamic Thought"*

### World Islamic Call Society

The World Islamic Call Society which has called for this conference and sponsored it, has had a long experience in Muslim-Christian dialogue. Not long after it was founded in 1972, it sponsored the first international Muslim-Christian dialogue conference with the Vatican. The Society has also been involved in intercultural dialogue through its work with the UNESCO and other United Nations agencies. The society has over forty offices around the world which carry out its mission of helping the poor and building bridges with diverse countries and faith-communities. This is the first attempt to begin a constructive dialogue between Western Evangelical Christians and Muslims.

Schedule of Events:

#### Thurs. Nov. 2nd:

6:00 pm

Welcoming dinner

- Welcome: Dr. Charles Peterson, Academic Dean, North Park University
- Prayers, Bible and Qu'ranic Readings:

Dr. Don Wagner, Dr. Mahmoud **Ayoub**: Conference coordinators

7:30 pm

#### First Session:

Perspectives on a Just World in the Qu'ran and Bible"

Panel:

- Dr. Gary Burge, Wheaton College
- Dr. Assad Busool, American Islamic College of Chicago
- Respondent: Dr. Mahmoud **Ayoub**, Temple University

9:30 pm: Closing Reflections

#### Friday, Nov. 3rd:

9:00 am

#### Second Session:

"Theories of Justice in Islam and Evangelical Christian Thought"

Panel:

- Dr. Stephen Sizer, Vicar, Virginia Waters Anglican Church, England
- Mr. Jim Rice, Senior Editor, Sojourners Magazine
- Dr. Mustafa Abu-Sway, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem (He sent paper, but was unable to attend).

10:45 am

#### Third Session:

"Social Justice in Islam and Evangelical Christianity:

Responsibility for the Poor, and under Privileged in the two Communities"

Panel:

- Dr. Tim Dearborn, World Vision International
- Dr. Abdullah T. Antepi, Hartford Seminary Foundation
- Mr. Sultan Muhammad, CAIR Chicago

3:00 pm

#### Fourth Session:

"Justice and Human Rights in Islam and Evangelical Christian Theology"

- Imam Dr. Talal Eid, Islamic Institute of Boston
- Mr. Jonathan Kuttab, human rights attorney, Jerusalem

7:30 pm

#### Fifth Session:

"Jihad and Just War Theology"

(Including the impact of the wars in Lebanon, Gaza, and Iraq)

Panel:

- Dr. Glen Stassen, Fuller Theological Seminary
- Dr. Ibrahim **Abu-Rabi**, Hartford Seminary Foundation
- Imam Dr. Talal Eid, Islamic Institute of Boston

9:30 pm

Closing Reflections

**Saturday, Nov. 4th:**

9:00 am

**Sixth Session:**

"Justice in the Media"

Panel:

- Dr. Ghada Talhami, Lake Forest College
- Mr. Jim Rice, Senior Editor, Sojourners Magazine
- Mr. Tim Morgan, Christianity Today Magazine
- Dr. Mustafa Abu-Sway, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem (was unable to participate)

2:00 pm

**Seventh Session:**

"Justice in the Family, Women, Marriage, and Youth"

Panel:

- Prof. Ginny Olson, North Park University
- Prof. Velda Love, North Park University
- Dr. Marcia Hermansen, Loyola University
- Dr. Munir **El-Kassem**, University of Western Ontario and the Islamic Center London, Ontario, Canada

4:30 pm

**Open Plenary Session:** "Where Do We Go From Here?"

Follow Up Suggestions:

1. Invite each community to define themselves: what is an Evangelical (outlining the various traditions that constitute Evangelicals) and what are the various Muslim traditions.
2. The need for Muslims to provide Christians with a translation of the Qu'ran and other appropriate materials explaining Islam. Likewise, Christians should provide Muslims with scriptures and other appropriate materials explaining basic Christian beliefs and doctrines.
3. The conference should issue a statement in due time: what happened? Why we met? Some future plans.
4. Submit a report with video tapes and gratitude to **WICS**. Nothing would have been possible without their generous support. All participants are indebted to **WICS**.

5. Consider eventually a publication containing the presentations delivered at the Nov. 2-4 conference.

6. Next conference should be in the Middle East or Europe: explore a conference done in conjunction with Al-Azhar in Cairo.

7. Have a conference in 2 years in the USA with a much larger list of invited guests.

8. Eventually prepare a statement and/or article for the media.

9. Next conference should have more diversity among both Muslim and Christian Evangelical participants. Evangelicals should try to raise funds so they are doing their part.

10. Future themes to be explored:

- The peace process in the Middle East (or lack thereof)
- The Imago Dei (image of man/women)
- Dawa and Mission
- Clash of Civilizations with critique
- Media profiling and stereotyping (could be in conjunction with Image of man/woman)
- Peace and justice in the two traditions

11. Involve more institutions in the USA that could carry on the work with institutional support, E.G. North Park University, Lutheran School of Theology, American Islamic College and International Institute of Islamic Thought.

Conference Participants:

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