**Sharing the Gospel Across Different Worldviews - KWMC**

Our family served 10 years as missionaries in Central Asia: 6 years in Uzbekistan and 4 years in Kyrgyzstan. We were sent out by Open Door Presbyterian Church through mission agency called Pioneers. Over the years other churches have supported us, including KCPC. We are grateful for their partnership. During our 10 years in Central Asia, over 120 Muslims came to faith in Jesus. Praise the Lord.

We recently published a book (Fear Not) about our missionary journey. You can get a copy at Amazon or at the Crescent Project booth in the exhibit hall.

While in Uzbekistan we were invited to many weddings. Here’s a photo of a Tajik Muslim wedding. What are the bride and the groom doing? They are not looking at each other, but at a mirror. The Tajiks believe that if a groom looks at his bride directly, an evil spirit will come and curse them.

Soon after the wedding, the Tajik couple has a baby boy. The mother takes the child to a shaman who takes blood from a live chicken and puts it on every opening of the child: mouth, nose, eyes, ears and even the private parts. They ask a special angel to come and protect the child. Why are they doing this? It’s because they want to seal the child from demons coming in to the child and attacking it. But this blood ceremony has just opened up the child to demonic attacks all his life.

To understand what just happened, let us look at this diagram. At the core of each person is his worldview: what is real. Worldview influences his beliefs: what is true. In turn, beliefs influence his values: what is good or bad. And his values influence his behavior: what is done.

Let’s go back to the Tajik birth ritual involving chicken blood:

* Behavior – Applying chicken blood on infant
* Values – Taking the infant to a Muslim priest/shaman for protection is necessary
* Beliefs – Chicken blood + incantation wards off evil spirits
* Worldview – evil spirits can harm or put curses on people

What is worldview? “...way of interpreting things and events that pervades a culture so thoroughly that it becomes a culture’s concept of reality – what is good, what is important, what is sacred, what is real. Worldview is more than culture…the beliefs, values, and behaviors of a culture stem directly from its worldview.”

There are 3 major worldviews: guilt & innocence, shame & honor, fear & power. The 3 worldviews are like the 3 primary colors that make up the color spectrum. They are the foundation of each culture. Every culture has some aspect of each worldview.

Let’s look at Genesis 3:7-11. Shame comes into the world after Adam & Eve sin. They were naked before the sin, and there was no shame. After the sin, they needed to cover themselves. Fear comes into the world. They needed to hide from God because they were afraid, perhaps of God’s wrath and punishment. Guilt comes into the world. Adam and Even disobeyed God’s command not to eat the forbidden fruit.

There is no SINGLE worldview that is “correct” - all 3 worldviews are found in the Bible.

Goals or strivings in each worldview:

* SHAME 🡪 HONOR
* GUILT 🡪 INNOCENCE
* FEAR 🡪 POWER

Let’s take a look at the first worldview: guilt & innocence.

* covers most of the Western world
* stress on abiding by the law
* right vs. wrong
* focus on TRUTH
* application of scientific reasoning
* focus on the mind (rational)

Example of coming to a red traffic light at 3am in the morning. No other cars. Would you stop?

Satan’s approach in this worldview: inject lies.

* Abortion (is not murder; it’s a woman’s choice) – guilt is removed
* Atheism (evolutionism) – God doesn’t exist
* Universalism – everyone goes to heaven; no need for Jesus
* Infinite degree of gender identity

Jesus came to take away our GUILT: Isaiah 53:10.

Evangelism & discipleship in this worldview:

* Emphasis on communicating the TRUTH
* Reliance on tools like “4 Spiritual Laws” or other Gospel tracts
* Books or websites for “truth encounter”

Jesus Christ comes to the lost within the context of each worldview.

To people living with guilt & innocence worldview, Jesus offers TRUTH. In John 3, Jesus has long conversation with Nicodemus about what it means to be born again. There are no miraculous healings or casting out of demons.

This is a woman from Sierra Leone whom we met several years ago. When we first met, she was a Muslim who went to Mecca eleven times. She did not find peace of God at the Mecca. So I told her a story of the 2 Prophets. You can read more about this in the pamphlet. After hearing the story, the woman chose to follow Jesus.

Key strategy in evangelism: lift Jesus higher. John 12:32 “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” Jesus was talking about being lifted up on the cross and bringing salvation to the world. Symbolically, if we can lift up Jesus higher than Muhammad, Buddha or anyone else, the lost will put their faith in Him.

The next major worldview is shame & honor.

* 10/40 Window people groups (Asia, Latin America, Muslims, Hindus, Africa)
* stress on preserving HONOR at all costs
* honor over truth (it’s okay to lie to preserve honor)
* focus on the relational (social & emotional)

Shame & honor in different cultures:

* Shame and honor are positions in society, not just feelings
* Shame can be used as controlling force in people’s lives
* In the West, shame falls on the individual
* In the East, shame falls on the group

Virginia Tech mass shooting in April 2007. A Korean-American young man killed 32 people with a gun. Korean-American churches repented for not raising up the next generation properly.

* South Korean ambassador to the US offers formal apology on behalf of the people of Korea, even though the killer was US citizen.
* 32 day voluntary fasting

Satan’s approach in this worldview: enslavement to shameful identity

* Guilt – I’ve done something wrong
* Shame – There is something wrong with me
* Guilt – I made a mistake
* Shame – I am a mistake

Example of Hindu caste system: Dalits can never change the caste they are born into.

Satan’s strategy: death to escape shame

* + Arabs respond with revenge (honor killing)
  + Asians respond with suicide
  + both responses involve death to restore honor

Example of Shafia honor killing in Canada (2009). An Afghan young man kills his 3 sisters and his aunt because they were becoming more Western. After investigation, the police arrest the young man and his parents for murder. While they are going to jail, the Afghan community around them applaud: the family did the right thing to restore honor.

Jesus came to take away our SHAME: Romans 9:33

Evangelism & discipleship in shame & honor worldview

* Muslims/Hindus/Buddhists come from Shame & Honor culture
* Be “proud” of being a Christian
* Avoid sharing the Gospel in group setting
* Avoid cross-gender evangelism
* Treat Bible and place of worship with honor
* Ask about their parents/relatives and offer to pray for (bless) them
* Prepare a gift (Bible, Jesus DVD, sweets) for the guest or host
* Use parables like “The Prodigal Son” to highlight honor being restored

Example: We prayed for a young Muslim man from Iraq working at a hotel in Baltimore. I prayed for blessing over the people of Iraq, and especially his parents who were still living in Iraq with fighting going on. He was very grateful and I gave him a copy of Jesus DVD in Arabic. He watched the DVD and then met with an Egyptian pastor. After 2 hours he gave his life to Jesus.

Jesus restores honor to people in shame in this worldview. He covers them with His love and mercy. John 8 - Jesus chooses not to uphold the OT law (Lev 20:10); instead, He covers the woman caught in adultery with love and mercy.

John 13 – Jesus serves, honors and loves the disciples by washing their feet.

Example of an Egyptian Muslim woman and her son who were homeless in our town several years ago. They were thrown out of her brother’s house in the winter. I met them at the shelter and invited them to ESL classes and to our church service. We fed them meals, bought groceries and clothes. Our Christian doctor, dentist and lawyer friends helped her for free. One day she said to me, “You are a reflection of your God.” Why are you helping a Muslim woman? She and her son became born-again believers and were baptized on Easter Sunday.

The third major worldview is Fear & Power.

* Tribal peoples in Africa, South America, Asia; also Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists
* Stress on acquiring power to ward off evil eye, curses, and even death
* Shamans or witches who promise blessing
* focus on the spiritual

Satan’s strategy: demonic rituals for protection or blessing

* Divination/witchcraft in Muslim countries
* Dedication of child to Buddhist monk for protection and blessing
* Ancestor worship in Asia

Jesus came to our world to take away FEAR: Hebrews 2:14-15.

Example of power objects in Islam: evil eye charm and the hand of Fatima.

Dreamcatcher made by Native Americans.

Evil eye charms in Turkey: on the airplanes and in the airport in Izmir to protect the people from curses.

Evangelism & discipleship in fear & power worldview:

* pray for dreams and visions of Jesus Christ
* Repentance, deliverance, and inner healing

Jesus Christ demonstrates God’s POWER to people living in this worldview.

John 9 – Jesus heals the man born blind. Jesus first heals the man of physical blindness so that his heart becomes open to receive the gospel.

In Uzbekistan we met a Tajik Muslim shaman. She was the aunt of my disciple. One day the shaman had a miraculous encounter. While looking for her fortune for the day, the name “Jesus Christ” came up 3 times. She was shocked. She asked her niece (my disciple) to take her to church. We decided to visit her with our Bible, worship songbook, and guitar.

I told the shaman that what she was doing was evil in the eyes of God. We read Leviticus 20:26-27 together. I told her that if we lived in Old Testament times, she would have been stoned by the people. After 4 hours of sharing the gospel, the Tajik shaman repented and gave her life to Jesus. Praise the Lord!

Then we went to the room where she did divination, and worshiped Jesus with songs like “What can wash my sins away, nothing but the blood of Jesus.” Then we read Acts 19:18 and I challenged her to burn up all her witchcraft items. She agreed. We took everything and burned them up outside as we sang worship songs. She led her husband and her children to Christ.

We want to recommend several books:

* Honor & Shame – Roland Muller
* The 3D Gospel – Jayson Georges
* Liberty to the Captives – Mark Durie

We are with a ministry called Crescent Project. We train Christians to reach out to the Muslims with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have produced a Korean version of DVD training called BRIDGES. It will help Korean Christians in their ministry to Muslims. Our goal is to see every Muslim have an opportunity to respond to the Gospel and be connected to a true follower of Jesus!

Visit our website: www.crescentproject.org