

# **KINGDOM PLANTING**

**Leveraging JPMs Among Neighbours**



**Victor Choudhrie**



KINGDOM PLANTING:  
Leveraging JPMs Among Neighbours

by Victor Choudhrie, 2011

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## Bad News

In most Muslim-majority countries Christians have a lower status than Muslims. They are subject to discrimination and restriction. This results in poverty, illiteracy and poor employment, without even the basic necessities of life. As a despised and disadvantaged minority, they are vulnerable to more severe persecution.

**Afghanistan:** TV footage showing converts being baptized triggered a frenzied anti-Christian response last year and calls for them all to be killed.

**Algeria:** Authorities issued an order on May 25, 2011, that all Protestant churches in the Bejala region be closed.

**China:** House church leaders sentenced to labour camps for re-education

**Iran:** Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini said that Christian enemies are destroying Iran through the spread of a network of house churches.

**Iraq:** Many killed and an estimated 800,000 believers have fled the area recently.

**Saudi Arabia:** Government forbids non-Muslims from practicing their faith publicly.

**Pakistan:** Radical Muslim clerics have launched a campaign to have the Bible banned. The “blasphemy law” demands a death sentence for “defiling the name of Muhammad”. Christians are at risk from malicious accusations.

**Tanzania:** Muslim extremists torch churches in Zanzibar

**Nigeria:** A sequence of horrific massacres by Muslims against Christians.

**United States of Islam:** The dream of every Muslim is Islamic world dominance.

**Arab Turbulence:** The recent “Muslim Brotherhood” led “democratic” revolutions may produce more strongly Islamic regimes in Egypt, Lybia, Syria and others and the fall of the present regimes could lead to an anti-Christian bloodbath.

## Good News

**Al Jazeera:** Six million Muslims are converting to Christianity every year.



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## PREFACE

We hear lots of good news and bad news from the Muslim world. The bad news is about all the turmoil and persecution in Muslim countries. The good news is that increasing numbers of Muslims are coming to al-Masih. However, it is hard to find those who are involved in driving the movement. It is easy to find any number of 'Isa followers preaching to 'Isa followers, but it is hard to locate the Muslim followers of 'Isa who are changing their society. Whilst there are large numbers coming to al-Masih through media, literature, CDs, DVDs, the Internet and airwaves, most of these believers have not become disciples and certainly not disciple-makers. Unless this changes, it will inevitably lead to a very shallow faith in 'Isa.

This booklet has two objectives. Firstly, it will familiarize 'Isa's followers with some principles, forms and functions of rapidly-multiplying low-profile, 'below the radar', invisible' house-jamaats wherein seekers can become disciples and can mature, in the privacy of their homes, to become disciple-makers and to plant new 'Isa jamaats. Next, House-Jamaat Network (HJN) Planters can help bring unity and synergy that will give birth to a Jamaat Planting Movement (JPM) planters. This should ultimately lead to expansion of the Kingdom of God.

We expect a strategic network of Muslim ministries to be formed that will facilitate cross-pollination through exchanges of gifted trainers, leading to house-jamaat planting movements (HJPMs) sprouting up all over the Muslim world that will finish the task of 'Isa's Supreme Order.

Secondly, even though the apologetics presented in this booklet are by no means exhaustive, these can help readers learn to handle confidently some of the objections Muslims frequently raise against the Injiil (Good News) about 'Isa. For more a detailed study, you will have to find other resources of which there are plenty.

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In the year 2011, the world is in crisis and falling apart: governments, politicians, judiciary, administration, police, businessmen and especially religious leaders have become corrupt. Entire nations are besieged by financial debt, terrorism, and a multitude of natural disasters. We know that there are no worldly solutions to these crises, and that we need to look for radical, spiritual solutions. We also know for sure that the Lord 'Isa al-Masih—'Isa the Messiah—is the Answer.

The 'Isa movement started with 3,000 unbelievers who repented, got baptized, were empowered by 'al-ruh 'al-qudus (the Holy Spirit), met in jamaats and multiplied from house to house. There is no reason why the same things could not happen, now.

*We praise God that Muslims are seeing dreams and visions, are having supernatural revelations, and are coming to al-Masih in numbers unimaginable.*

Salaam, Shalom, Shanti, Solh, Damai, Mir, Damai, Tinchlik, Frieden, Jàmm, Peace:

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## SHARING CHRIST WITH NEIGHBOURS

Islam is one of the fastest growing religions on earth with 1.5 billion followers. While Islam is often associated with Arabs, Arabs make up only 15% of the world's Muslim population. The country with the largest population of Muslims is Indonesia. Muslims make up one fifth of the world's population, with large numbers found in Asia (69%), Africa (27%), Europe (3%) and other parts of the world. Over 400 million Muslims live in India (140 million), Bangladesh and Pakistan. Over 80% of all Muslims have heard only distorted versions of 'Isa's Good News, because the 'Isa-jamaats have never seriously attempted to reach the hundreds of millions of Muslims.

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Samuel Zwemer wrote, "One might suppose that the church thought the Supreme Order (The Great Commission) did not apply to Muslims." This is easily demonstrated by looking at some statistics: only one percent of the 'Isa-jamaats' entire work force is ministering to Muslims. This means that there is about one 'Isa follower serving every million Muslims. Afghanistan with a population of 17 million people has 48,000 mosques but no 'Isa-jamaat building. Turkey, where most of the early 'Isa-jamaats were planted by Paul and others, is now 98% Muslim. Turkey's Christian population shrank from 22 percent to one percent in the last century. There are more working for 'Isa among India's Hyderabad city's six million residents than in the entire Muslim world! These are compelling and heart-breaking statistics are, yet we have a greater mandate: Though 'Isa said to go to all peoples, yet one fifth of the world is still waiting.

*We grow mature as fishers of men, not by attending weekly religious services, but by applying 'Isa's teachings in our daily lives the context of the world in which we live.*

### **PLANT THE KINGDOM, NOT JUST GATHERINGS**

The Old Testament (OT), with all its religion and rituals, was teaching 'shadows and types' of things to come. After 'Isa al-Masih came and fulfilled them, the temple, circumcision, animal sacrifice, tithing, priesthood, music and feasts metamorphosed into real things. 'Isa said, "Not a jot or tittle can be changed until it is fulfilled." "It was said in the past ..., but now I say ..." (Matt. 5:17-18; 43-44). Worship at a physical altar, central to OT worship, has shifted to 'Isa's cross. The day 'Isa was crucified, the brick-and-mortar temple, along with its rituals became obsolete forever. Seventy years later, Titus, a Roman army general, came, dismantled the temple and desecrated it stone by stone.

The *Shema* was the central tenet of Judaism: "Hear O Israel: the LORD our God is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your

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*heart, with all your soul, and with all your might*" (Deut. 6:4-5). It focuses on the One True God. A Jewish lawyer once asked 'Isa al-Masih which is the greatest commandment, 'Isa not only recited the Shema but he added to it, unsolicited, a fresh dimension by recalling a more obscure verse from the Torah, which was not in the Jewish wavelength: *"You shall love your neighbour as yourself"* (Lev. 19:18). He then recounted the story of a Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). Of course, the human dimension had been there, in the Ten Commandments, all the long. The first four commandments related to God, the fifth family (mother and father), and the last five to neighbours and others.

In subsequent encounters with religious Jews, 'Isa would pursue the same thread. With a rich young man on the subject of keeping commandments, 'Isa did not ask about God-related commandments but enquired only about those related to one's neighbor: *"Go sell everything and give to the poor, then follow me"*. While keeping the primacy of the Law of the First Intent (the Shema), 'Isa issued a new commandment: *"Love one another"*, so that the world may know him and glorify God (John 13:34-35). He even went further, ordering his followers to become perfect by loving their enemies, as well (Matt. 5:43-48).

'Isa al-Masih inverted the top-downward privileges of the priestly class in charge of worship towards God. He did so by setting up a bottom-upward priesthood of all believers, that is, of those who were lost and now are found. These glorifying God by making more priests *"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be my disciples... I have chosen you and ordained you to bring forth lasting fruit"* (John 15:8, 16). All this proved too much for those religious Jews who focused on God and their temple while neglecting their neighbour in need.

The Jewish feasts were designed for building relationships; firstly with God, secondly with the community, and finally with neighbors and others. Unfortunately, their priesthood later reduced those feasts to mere religious formalities. We, today, demonstrate our love for God, not by going to some temple, but, firstly by being authentic temples of the living God; then, secondly by becoming fishers of men; and, finally, by planting the kingdom of God wherever God places us. Loving God

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without loving the lost *equally* so flaws a jamaat that it delays God's kingdom-expansion plan. Excluding Muslims will result in the loss of a mega block of humanity.

Ever since the Holy Spirit came, we 'Isa followers are the real temple of the living God, and we also serve as his royal priests. Our function is to circumcise repentant hearts, offering them as a living sacrifice. The Feast of Pentecost, following 'Isa's resurrection, introduced the Last Days in which a long-hidden mystery was revealed. God receives Jews and Gentiles, slave and free, males and females, all as equal members of 'Isa's Body and fellow heirs of 'Isa's kingdom. *"Now in al-Masih we are all one"* (1 Cor 3:16; 1 Pet. 2:5, 6, 9; Col. 2:10-12; Eph. 3:1-9).

The New Testament (NT) is all about God's Government. It is all substance, a present reality on earth. Thus, we should not accept to be judged by others over matters of food, drink, new moons, feasts or holy days, which are mere shadows (Col. 2:16-17). The phrase 'Kingdom of God' and its variations come 150 times in the NT, whereas the word "jamaat" occurs only 79 times. The highest objective of any ministry is to transform the sinful kingdoms of this world, into righteous kingdoms of our Lord and His Messiah by which we shall reign with Him forever (Rev. 5:10; 11:15).

The NT starts with the ministry of John the Baptist who, as his prototype the prophet Elijah, announced the Kingdom of God (Matt. 3:1-2). John was not a religious man; he neither attended temple services nor kept religious observances. His full-time work was to demolish religion whilst his part time job was to baptise the religious who repented. John's mandate was to heal relations between fathers and sons. (Luke 1:17)

## KINGDOM PLANTING IS BIBLICAL

*"See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.*

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*And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it” (Jer. 1:10; 18:9).*

### INTERCESSORY HOT SPOTS

Driving all opposition both from within and from the field remains key to planting the kingdom. ‘Isa Al-Masih said, “If I cast out demons ... then the kingdom of God has come upon you” (Matt. 12:28). One early prophet named Elijah challenged King Ahab’s demoniac wife Jezebel who showed spirits of seduction and of evil spirituality. Though Elijah slew 400 priests of a false god called Baal, he was an ordinary man who, when he prayed, it rained (Jam. 5:17). His mandate was to heal relations between fathers and their children (Mal. 4:6). The day God took him up to heaven on a fiery chariot, Elijah did some quick succession planning, handing over his mantle to a fiery disciple named Elisha.

Centuries later, Paul came and took head on the goddess Diana and all her devotees at Ephesus in Turkey, then launched there his most productive home-jamaat planting work. In Delphi Paul also strangled Python, a suffocating spirit of divination and sorcery. *Divination* deals with spirits that guard a gateway or entrance into a city. Serpents and dragons are still worshipped in many countries. In India, Shiva has a serpent around his neck, while Vishnu lies on a coiled, thousand-headed *sheshnaga* (eternal serpent). China has its dragon. These maintain a stranglehold to the entrance to a city and build strongholds within a city. Although these will do everything to stop 'Isa’s Good News entering their city, 'Isa says, “The gates of Hades shall not prevail” (Matt. 16:18).

Lucifer, The most rich, most handsome, and most musically-talented angel, was cut down to the ground because of his pride. “That serpent of old called the devil and the Satan, who deceives the whole world”, remains our biggest enemy of whom God said, “I will put enmity between the seed of the woman and that of the serpent and he will crush the head of the serpent.” We are to conduct relentless hostility against our irreconcilable enemy, until the kingdoms of this world have become the

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Kingdom of our Lord and his Messiah. But before we can do, that we must conquer our own pride and ego (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 14:12; 12:9; John 8:44; Rom. 16:20; Rev. 11:15).

'Isa's followers must first set up apostolic, prophetic jamaats as Hot Spots of intercessors who break strangleholds and destroy strongholds through prayer walking (1Tim. 2:8), who take possession of the Gates of their city, and who then plant the Kingdom. Too often, a Python spirit takes over leaders of a jamaat, especially of prayer and bible study groups, when dominant leaders start controlling and suffocating their own jamaat. Beware of any leader who operates from isolation with no accountability to anyone (Acts 19:8-12; 23-39).

God gives different visions to different people at different times in different places. Nuh, Ibrahim, Yusuf, Musaa, Dawud, each one had been given different vision and mission. Isaiah received his prophetic vision inside the temple. Daniel found his in the sacred texts. Ezekiel had to eat a scroll which purged, purified and turned him pale.

Our inheritance is the Kingdom of God received through Yeshua stands far greater than what any of the OT prophets received. (Eph. 1:11)

When 'Isa al-Masih started, "*preaching the **Kingdom of God***" (Matt. 4:17), he chose twelve unlettered men as his disciples, giving them power and authority to cast out demons and to cure diseases, and sent them to "*preach the **Kingdom of God***" through healing and deliverance (Luke 9:1-2). He declared John to be the greatest among those born of women (Matt. 11:11). This idea demolished a long-held Jewish belief that their ancestor, Abraham, and their law-giver, Moses, were the greatest. 'Isa further muddied their Jewish water by adding, "*He that is least in the Kingdom of God is greater than John*" (Matt. 11:11). That is you and I.

If you are the least in the Kingdom of God, then you rank higher than Abraham, Moses, Elijah and John. Did you know that 'Isa, through his disciples, baptized more than John the Baptist did (John 4:1-2)? Your assignment, therefore, is to do greater works than those the Lord 'Isa himself did. You are to make more disciples and baptise more than he did (John 14:12). Just think of that.

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*Unless you produce disciples with more bandwidth than you yourself, reaching the “finish line” will continue to suffer unnecessary delays.*

### **WHERE IS THE FINISH LINE?**

The Heavenly Father gave to the Lord 'Isa a double assignment: to die an atoning death on across, followed by his return to life, and to equip twelve disciples whom he would send out to change the world, ushering in the Kingdom of God on planet earth. This task he faithfully completed, saying “*I have finished the task*” (John 17:4; 18). Now, 'Isa gives five-fold gifts to his jamaats consisting of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds and Teachers who equip his holy followers in ministries of edification, that is, growth and multiplication.

'Isa's followers are to do more than sit, sing and drop coins into a collection box. A coach does not sit on the sidelines and just applaud; he runs with the athletes, and he rejoices when athlete overtakes him. He not only tells them, “Do as I tell you”; he also says, “Do as I do”. Paul wrote, “*Imitate me as I imitate al-Masih*”. (1Cor. 11:1)

If your jamaat is not growing in faith and multiplying in numbers significantly to change the demographics of your society, then it does not matter how enjoyable your worship or sermons are, for those essential equipping gifts are missing from your jamaat. 'Isa wants us to do greater works than his own work, by making disciples of all nations, tongues and tribes, baptising them, equipping them and sending them out on to bring the kingdom of heaven on earth. In other words, if your jamaat is not rescuing the perishing, then it needs help. Acts 16:5

*For this to happen, every believer must become a disciple maker, every home a house-jamaat, and every leader a JPM precipitator (Acts 16:5; Matt. 28:19).*

## WHAT THE KINGDOM LOOKS LIKE

First of all the kingdom comes not in a highly visible way (Luke 17:20), nor does it come only by much touted revival meetings, or by singing and dancing in jamaats. *“We played the flute but you did not dance. We chanted our lament and you did not repeat our liturgy”* (Matt. 11:17).

Rather, the Kingdom comes by violence and the violent take it by force (Matt. 11:12), that is by dispossessing the enemy and taking possession of his territory. Al-Masih came to destroy the works of the Dajjal (Devil) (1 John 3:8). Muslims believe that ‘Isa al-Masih will return and kill Dajjal with a spear. You must seize back your inheritance, not by carnal means but by spiritual warfare (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

What you see now are signs of the Kingdom which will come in fullness only when the King of kings appears. A seed has all the ingredients, *“For the earth brings out fruit of itself, first the blade, then the ear, after that the full grain in the ear.”* It is the same with the kingdom. (Mark 4:28)

*“You must first bind the strongman and destroy his strongholds, then only you can plunder his possessions [persons and places]?”* (Matt. 12:29)

The original model of God’s government on earth existed in the Garden of Eden. God created Adam and Hawa on the sixth day. When they woke up next morning, they rested with the Lord their Creator. God gave to them the most delightful and fertile piece of land on the globe. There they enjoyed a relational, loving, joyful, peaceful, abundant life. Adam and Hawa did not have to earn a living to eat, because they exercised rule over the creation. Adam was assigned the job of dispossessing the devil from the rest of the earth which was a wilderness. Adam was to subdue it and take dominion, ruling over it.

But what happened was the reverse. Before we judge Adam too harshly, let us figure out why God has now put us all in a particular place, at a specific time like this. Is it not to dispossess the enemy from our home, neighbourhood, workplace, city and nation? To subdue it and to rule over it? Failing to do so would categorise all of us as no better than Grandpa Adam, resulting in our ending up wherever he is (Est. 4:14).

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Adam's disobedience resulted in humans handing over their rule to the prince of the power of the air, in their being cursed to eat by the sweat of their brow, and in women becoming subservient to men and in procreating with pain. Their land too was cursed and no longer produces its strength. The serpent not only lost its legs, it was destined to have its head crushed. And all of them ended up dead and in dust (Gen. 3:15-17).

Over the past couple of decades, the economy, technology, health, education, transport, environment, religion, politics, morality and ideologies have so changed that you cannot tell anymore who the VIPs, because so many now drive cars. Billions of people now have cell phones and send hundreds of messages to each other. Teenagers have become gadget-savvy, tech gurus. The shift to a market economy, combined with the phenomenal growth of the software industry, has fuelled rapid economic advancement that is making profound alterations in the social fabric, changing the very soul of our cities.

## **DEMONS ARE NOT DEAD**

Let us not be deceived. Communism is not dead, even though it has stopped building Berlin walls; it is now working from within governments, media and so-called Liberty and Environmental NGOs, promoting deviant sexuality and everything else that stands against God's law, integrity, order, etc. Let us not be deluded. Jewish opposition to the 'Isa Way still exists, funding many anti-'Isa Way activities. Let us not be fooled. The harmless-looking Hindu Yoga and Gurus are worming their way into the very fabric of our nation's life, turn it into an idolatrous country. "Saffron (Hindu) terror" is now in the news almost every other day. Let us not be led up the garden path. Orthodox Islam is never peaceful; it enjoins beheading an infidel, saying only killing another Muslim is sinful (Surah 47:4; 9:5, 123; 66:73). Of course, Islamic apologetics say that this applies only to warlike situations. Orthodox Buddhism remains atheistic, mystical and heavily cultic and, in some countries, such as Sri Lanka, very violent. The demons are not dead; they have only changed their tactics. Violent

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inter-tribal and ethnic rivalry among nominal Christians in northeast India and Africa remain rampant and demonic.

Today, human disobedience is resulting in unprecedented global socio-politico-religio-culturo-economic challenges and situations. The creation is fast turning back into a wilderness, full of violence. Every kingdom has a king whose commands must be obeyed, lest chaos reign. Indicators of demonic kingdoms include political chaos, economic meltdown, social disparity, idolatry, adultery, divorce, flesh trade, human trafficking, abortion, terrorism, violence, apostasy laws, drug abuse, poverty, hunger, thirst, exploitation, dehumanization and other innumerable sins. These will not be the issues in the Kingdom of heaven.

## DEMONIC HIERARCHY

Demonic hierarchy are ruled by Mammon, the prince of tempters (1 Thess. 3:5), Asmodeus, the prince of vengeance (1John 3:4); Satan, the prince of deluders (John 12:40), Beelzebub, the chief of false gods; Python, the prince of divination (Acts 16:16-19); Belial, the prince of iniquity (2Thess. 2:7 ); Abaddon, the prince of war (Rev. 9:11), and others.. The literal meaning of *demon* was "replete with wisdom" or "knowing one", derived from the Greek word *daimon*, divine power. (Francis Barrett, *The Magus*, London, 1801)

These spirits are called *jinn* in Islam. They are invisible, powerful spirits having visible, physical manifestations. They are not mere natural phenomena, they are our adversaries determined to steal, kill and destroy us. Unless they are bound and cast out, the Kingdom of God cannot come with force. 'Isa came to destroy the works of the Devil. Our Lord 'Isa has given us power and authority "*over all the power of the enemy*", and he wants to see our adversary, Satan, fall like lightning. With power and authority comes a warning: "*To him who knows to do good, and does not do it, to him it is sin.*" One of our most noble tasks, as disciples of al-Masih, is to chase the evil spirits all the way to the gates of

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hell with lightning speed, and then to plant the Kingdom. (Matt. 12:28-29; Luke 10:18-20; John 10:10; 1 John 3:8; James 4:17).

### **TEXTING THE GOOD NEWS**

With five billion mobile phones in use around the globe, the lost can learn about 'Isa al-Masih through short messages, wherever they are, and even read the Bible while they are stuck in traffic. All this takes is a little ingenuity and creativity with passion.

Interestingly, most situations and circumstances can be easily harnessed as opportunities. There is no excuse today for not being engaged in evangelism and discipling as every believer can send Kingdom-shaped gospel messages and even pray for non-believing friends and through Group Dialling to their friends, instead of sending junk. Even video clips and Bibles can be downloaded into cell phones. You can reach and disciple men, women and youth of other faiths, without jeopardizing their security. Changing the world has become ever so easy as never before. All that is required is a little adrenaline, insight and making yourself obedient and available.

Cell phones, smartphones, iPhones, Androids, BlackBerries, 3G. Web-enabled phones, Bluetooth, handsets, pen drives and myriad of other innovations, including email, can be used strategically. With these you can prepare a database and network prayer warriors, prayer walkers, prophets and others interested in possessing your nation, city by city. The result of prayer, "in sack cloth and ashes", especially by women and youth, for Muslim populations, will result in outpourings of the Spirit who will bring revival, will heal the land, turning desert wilderness into fruitful gardens. He will provide food on plates, clean water to drink, better housing and roads, abundance of peace, security, and a broad smile on their face (Isa. 32:9-16; 58:12).

Strategic content management of the message and choosing your recipients carefully are keys to the harvest. Avoid texting frills and

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beautiful messages to those non-productive potted plants (lukewarm followers) who delete it immediately, sometimes without reading it. It is better to send messages to all those bitter herbs (the lost) that will cherish them and make them bear sweet fruit.

Satan and his messengers have already taken over the music, the media and the movies that are mocking al-Masih.

*“Those who have insights will shine brightly like the brightness of heaven and those who lead many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever... Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased”* (Dan. 12:3-4). Sun, moon and stars in the scriptures refer symbolically to kings, rulers and authorities (Gen. 37:9-10). Souls who lose the light (insight) are lost. The Hebrew word for “run to and fro” is *shut*, pronounced “shoot”. It is time to shoot kingdom messages across the globe with modern day devices that God has already provided, “for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:9).

## MAN WAS DESIGNED TO RULE

God gave a clear command to mankind to become fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it and have dominion over it (Gen. 1:28). This was a local as well as a global command. Humans were to subdue the wilderness, possess it and have dominion over it. Since that command has never been abrogated, we followers of 'Isa are to subdue the wilderness and chaos around us and to take dominion over it. We were designed, in the image and likeness of our Maker, to rule his creation on His behalf. Although our first parents abdicated the Kingdom for just one forbidden fruit, 'Isa has come and restored our rule by purchasing us with his blood, making us priests and kings who reign on earth (Rev.5:10).

The DNA for ruling was reiterated when God changed the cheater Jacob's name to 'Israel' which means *he will rule as God*. Now, Jacob did not get this privilege without effort, for he had to struggle inside his

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mother's belly, and even as he was being born, he held on to the heel of his elder brother Esau. Later, he bargained for and bought Esau's birthright for a bowl of lentil soup. Still later, Jacob had to wrestle with God to get his blessing. Thus, neither rule nor kingdom comes by sitting on a bench, listening to pie-in-the-sky sermons; they come by violating the strongholds of the devil and taking possession of them. *"For he who is in the inside of you is greater than he who is in the world"* (1 John 4:4).

'Isa came to restore to us the Kingdom. To plant the Kingdom, he first had to destroy the works of the devil, authorising his followers to bind the strongman and to destroy his strongholds. He came to seek and save the lost, commanding his disciples to do the same. He came to restore sonship, rule and eternal life by offering himself as the full and final sacrifice. *"To all who received and believed in his name, he gave the right to become his children."* If we are children of God, then, by faith, we are already in his Kingdom and should be behaving as such. (Matt. 1:21; 12:29; 16:19; Luke 19:10; John 1:12; 3:16; 1 John 3:5, 8; Rev. 5:9, 10).

## WHERE THE KINGDOM BEGINS

The Government of God is not a theological stance, a creed, a doctrine, a message, or even a movement. Rather, his Kingdom is like a seed that is sown, germinates, grows, blossoms and bears fruit in due season. Similarly, the word of God, when planted as a seed in a receptive heart and quickened by the Spirit of God, blossoms, bears lasting fruit and matures into a Tree of Life which brings healing and restoration in the lives of the lost.

'Isa said, *"If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come to you"* (Matt. 12:28). Casting out demons is one of the signs of a believer, *"In my name they shall cast out demons, ... pray for the sick and they shall be healed"* (Mark 16:17-18). These are hall marks of a believer; it is not we ourselves who will do so but al-Masih in us, for *"he that is in you is greater than he that is in the world."* 'Isa did not say

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that he will give us academic or hierarchical tags, he did promise to give us the keys of the Kingdom. If we are not exercising our authority, then we are not using the precious keys which he has given to all believers to lock the doors of Hell and to open the doors of heaven (Matt. 16:19).

The casting out of demons requires more than rebuking them; it requires an amalgam of obedience, authority and faith. Otherwise we will be chased, crying “wee wee” all the way home, ashamed of ourselves, like the sons of Sceva. Sometimes, God raises up opposition in order to show his might and proclaim his name in all the earth, as he did in the case of Pharaoh, *“For this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.”* (Exo. 9:16; Acts 19:13-16; Rom. 9:17; Jam. 4:7)

*The demons know the power of the name of 'Isa and of his blood, and they tremble. Yet the million dollar question is, Do the 'Isa's followers know the power and authority they have? Our Lord came to destroy the works of the devil, and his Scripture is full of power verses for us to go shopping and fill ourselves with power. “Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might.”* This is a command, not just semantics. Only when we have power, can we be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. Already, 'Isa is seated at the right hand of Power in heaven. (Matt. 26:64; Acts 1:8; Eph. 6:10; James 2:19; 1 John 3:8)

Let's not go looking here and there for the keys of the kingdom, *“for the Kingdom of God is within you.”* Let's not even look up and pray intellectual prayers, because we do not know how to do so, rather it is the Spirit within us that makes intercession (Rom. 8:26). However, he is certainly not fully active in most show-up, pay-up and shut-up gathering places. Conference and meeting hopping is a special disease of many 'Isa followers, just as is guru hopping to learn Yoga for Hindus and for some misguided 'Isa followers. Let's not get into a habit of going and buy a ticket to the next crusade or convention, for the Kingdom will not necessarily be there, even if it has great music and a speaker dripping with charisma, keeping his audience spell bound.

Sadly, even amongst many 'Isa followers, there are many a High Priestly Aarons, surrounded by a large crowd singing and dancing around

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a golden bull. Instead, we need to be full of God on our inside, dispelling the spirit of fear, filling us with holy boldness, love and sound mind, to do great exploits. (Psa. 139:23-4; Dan. 11:32; Eph. 5:18; 2 Tim. 1:7)

The Kingdom of God is at hand, here and now, and a multitude is pressing into it. Certainly, thousands of Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists are already pressing into it daily. Though they be only a trickle now, it is our business to grow them into a mighty stream. This can only be done in NT-style house-jamaats which are designed for pumping performance-enhancing hormones. (Matt. 18:18-20; Luke 16:16; 17:21; 1John 4:4)

## THREE IN ONE

Similar to the Holy One Himself, we humans are a tri-unity of spirit, soul (mind, emotions, knowledge) and body” in that order. There are two kinds of spirits, spirits of error and the Spirit of truth. In the natural realm, our soul and body (our *self*) are ruled by spirits of error. However, whenever we crucify our *self*, it is no longer *self* who reigns, for the Spirit of Truth takes over, and we become free from all kinds of bondages, including bondage to religious rituals and are ‘born again’, are transformed. Whenever we no longer say, “I will do my own thing”, al-Masih, who dwells in me, takes over and we become his Kingdom” by letting him do whatever he wants us to do. Then we seek and save the lost, bind the strongman, and plunder his possessions, such that al-Masih becomes the hope of glory for the Gentiles, “*for as many are led by the spirit are the sons of God*” (Rom. 8:14). Our business as a son or daughter of God henceforth is to help plant his Kingdom into the sinners’ hearts, transforming them into perfect saints, sons and daughters of God who, in turn, must go and do the same. Al-Masih dwelling in us constitutes his Kingdom; anything less is a delusion (Gal. 2:20; 1 John 4:6).

Muslims have great difficulty in understanding the Trinity (tri-unity) of God the Father, 'Isa the Son and the Holy Spirit, as much as 'Isa followers have difficulty with the trinity of Allah, Jibreel (Gabriel) and

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Mohammad. Since other religions and ideologies claim to have the truth, how can we followers of 'Isa know that we have the Spirit of Truth? Simply: by his fruit. Islam, while speaking of peace and security, often responds with violence and terror. While preaching against idolatry, it requires going on Hajj (named after Hajjar or Hagar, Abraham's concubine, the mother of Ismail) and kissing the black Kabaa stone of in Mecca as a religious duty, the fifth pillar of Islam.

Hinduism talks of one supreme God even while worshipping many gods. Buddhism talks about the fourfold path of *moksha* (salvation), which is all about death and suffering, while denying that there is a god. Too many 'Isa followers talk of reaching the ends of the world, while camping inside the four walls of some sacred building.

A tree is known by its fruit (Matt. 7:16-20). Wherever the biblical Ten Commandments and the NT principles are introduced, there come substantially more peace and prosperity, whereas all other ideologies cause poverty, dehumanization, violence and filthy behaviour. Even Hinduism's holy cows give so little milk, that they have to import cows from Christian countries to meet their basic needs of milk and butter.

Western nations are veering off the biblical foundations on which they were established, and falling off the edges. They are practicing Yoga, transcendental meditation, worship of false gods, especially Mammon, and are erecting religious buildings of other faiths and numerous other strongholds. As a result, they are experiencing moral decadence and economic collapse, even as some poor nations of the East are on the mend as they come out of the power of darkness by being translated into the Kingdom of God's dear Son. The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy by displaying false power, lying wonders and false miracles, whereas 'Isa came to give abundant life (John 10:10; 2 Thess. 2:9; Col. 1:13).

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### A CITY ON A HILL

When Moses and Aaron stood before the Pharaoh of Egypt, demonstrating the power of God, crying, *“Let my people go”*, the wise men, sorcerers and magicians of Egypt could, astonishingly, match changing a rod into a snake, converting water into blood thing, and the multiplication of frogs. However, when, under God’s direction, Moses and Aaron turned dust into gnats, the Egyptians could not match that, nor could any of the plagues that followed. The Egyptians exclaimed, *“This is the finger of God!”*

That is what a testimony is all about. It is outsiders, those absolutely not of the household of God, who must see with their eyes something that happens so unmistakably *“of God”* that they can point their finger at it and testify, *“This is the finger of God!”*

*“The Holy Spirit will come upon you to be my witnesses”*, promised 'Isa (Acts 1:8). The term witness (Greek, *martyr*) was not a religious but a legal term describing a testimony confirming facts, truths or views subject to cross examination before a court. 'Isa, in his first public discourse, introduced his main message and central theme – the Kingdom of God – declaring his disciples to be salt and light to the world, a city set on the hill that cannot be hidden, charging them to perform good works that would provoke *outsiders* to glorify the Father in heaven. We, too, need to establish our testimony, like a *“city on the hill”* that everyone can see, to begin a harvesting movement of virally multiplying house-jamaats. (Wolfgang Simson, private communication)

*The seven stars are the angels [messengers] of the seven jamaats: and the seven lampstands are the seven jamaats (Rev. 1:20).*

*Not the cross but the lampstand is the true sign of 'Isa's community, and that light of that lampstand is none other than the Lamb; the nations that are saved shall walk in that light (Rev. 21:23-24).*

Gatherings are lamps on the hill, representing al-Masih, visible to the world, that send lamp-bearers (messengers) as luminaries into the world, not only to remove outer darkness but also to turn outsiders into lamp-

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bearers. They are like salt that transforms everything it comes in contact with, from their inside outwards (Matt. 5:14,16; John 8:12; 9:5; Phil. 2:15)

### **DISPELLING FIVE DANGEROUS MYTHS**

Around the world today, God is reforming 'Isa's jamaats to become more biblical and more effective. A fundamental design principle states that form (anatomy) and function (physiology) are mutually dependent. If you modify one, you will inevitably alter the other. Ever since the Roman Empire institutionalized 'Isa's jamaats, in the early fourth century, his followers have inherited a Roman cathedral form. That institution perpetuates five dangerous myths: (1) a special person, (2) dispensing service to special people only, (3) in a special hall, (4) on a special day, (5) for a special fee.

That form has proven to be too complex, ineffective, expensive, and unbiblical. To make disciples of al-Masih, today, we must have an approach that properly links function with form in ways that recover the shape, authority, and effectiveness of the ancient, apostolic strategy of multiplying house-jamaats in all neglected regions.

First-century jamaats maximized the effectiveness of their functions by minimizing the complexity of their forms. Consequently, followers of 'Isa turned the world 'upside down' (Acts 17:6). Theirs proved a Spirit-empowered, back-to-basics, inexpensive, and reproducible house-jamaat movement. An apostolic strategy follows an on-going lifecycle that produces multiplying movements of new believers, new leaders, and new house-jamaats. (See Rad Zdero, "The Apostolic Strategy of House Churches for Mission Today", *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, July 2011, vol.47, no.3, 346-353.)

According to the New Testament, 'Isa commanded only two ordinances, baptism and the breaking of bread. These can be practiced by any believer, anywhere, at any time "*The Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands... He lives in human hearts*" (Acts 7:48-

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49; 2 Cor. 6:16). You require no special person, no special place, no special day and no special fee for planting the kingdom. In the NT, 'Isa followers shared the whole wisdom of God, from house to house, and they broke bread from house to house, while the Lord added to their numbers daily. The simplest way for jamaats to go viral in a JPM is to get rid of the "specials" (Acts 2:46-47; 20:20, 27).

### **PRAY, PROCLAIM AND POSSESS (PPP)**

Flying in an aeroplane, you can see bright sunshine up high, then as the plane descends to land, you may see dark clouds that cover the city. It is a parallel situation with the pall of demonic clouds that covers all cities and nations. Since many cities together constitute a nation, our strategy to win a nation, must target its cities as primary units. The darkness over a city can only be cleared up by a cloud of witnesses Praying, Proclaiming and Possessing (PPP). Our battle is not with flesh and blood but with the host of demonic forces that build strongholds in our cities. The whole city needs to be brought to repentance.

*Isa al-Masih rebuked cities like Chorazin and Bethsaida that, in spite of all the mighty deeds done there, failed to repent. (Matt. 11:20-21)*

This cannot be done by 'Isa jamaats that are divided against one another. Thus, denominationalism kills. If you primarily identify yourself as Baptist, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Evangelical, etc., then you are already inflicted with an exclusive, divisive and potentially cruel spirit of "orthodoxy" and have lost the battle, for al-Masih has only one Body (Rom. 8:16; 1Cor. 12:13). The Jews looked down upon the Samaritans as irredeemable heretics, just as many 'Isa followers look at Muslims and *vice versa*. 'Isa broke down such sectarian walls when he identified with the Samaritans, so why would anyone try to rebuild that wall?

*Be wise and build the Kingdom of God upon obedience to 'Isa Messiah, the solid rock; do not foolishly build jamaat of brick and mortar upon shifting sand (Matt. 7:24-27).*

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Remember for some, what they call “Christianity” means following the life and teachings of 'Isa. But for others, Christianity means Inquisition, Crusades, colonialism, imperialism, witch hunts, decadent morality, sex abuse scandals, and worse. Being sound in doctrine while engaging in spiritual warfare includes an ability to handle such uncomfortable questions frankly and openly.

Taking over a city requires that all its prophets and intercessors be united and of one accord. All demonic forces are united with by singleness of purpose to steal, kill and destroy you. Unless something breaks in the heavenlies, nothing much happens on the ground. That is why the Lord has seated us up in the heavenly places whence we shoot gospel arrows of truth at the prince of the power of the air and at his demons below (Eph. 2:6; 6:12).

For all of us followers of al-Masih, our business is the demolishing of the gates of hell and the making of disciples amongst all nations. For this to happen, all of a city's 'Isa jamaats, despite their divergences, must converge and agree on PPP: Pray, Proclaim and Possess as their common, minimum program (CMP) for the redemption of their city. The absolute minimum is to agree to pray together, which is a good starting point, but it must not stop there. *PPP* remains their method, their message and their goal (Eph. 6:12-18; Jer. 29:7). Through *Prayer*, we clear the air by destroying the Prince of the power of the air and his demonic forces; through *Proclamation*, we sow the seed of JPMs; and through *Possession*, we establish 'Isa's Kingdom (Psa. 103:19; Eph. 2:2; 3:10).

*"Lord, see their threats and grant to your servants that with all boldness we may speak your word, and by stretching forth your hand to heal, that mighty signs may be done in the name of 'Isa!"* (Acts 4:29-31)

## SPEED MATTERS

The biblical Greek word for sin (*hamartia*) means 'missing the mark.' You might be a good follower of 'Isa who reads the Injiil, prays, goes to

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jamaat and tithes, and yet be a sinner having missed the mark of being “the hope of glory” (salvation) for the lost. “Al-Masih in you” is not a weekly event but a constant reality. Your getting saved was not the end of God’s work in you, for otherwise God would have taken you straight away to heaven. After we have been saved, God gives us an outreach task to fulfil on planet earth, which is to save as many others as we can, while we can, as soon as we can.

The only reason why we get a new computer is that something much faster and more user friendly is now available on the market.

The world is hurtling at a dizzying speed towards its destruction. Every second, seven babies are born, adding 78 million new souls a year. The world’s population crossed the seven billion mark in October 2011, making speed in completing the work of ‘Isa’s Supreme Order, The great Commission, all the more urgent. Lord ‘Isa said, “*I am coming quickly.*” John wrote, “*The time is near and these things will happen shortly.*” This does not mean undue haste or rushing, for we still have to go “*precept upon precept ... here a little and there a little*” even while recognizing the urgency. “*You say it is four months till the harvest, but I say the fields are ready for the harvest now*” (Isa. 28:10; John 4:35; Rev. 1:1, 3; 22:20)

In the ministries ‘Isa and of his apostles Petrus and Paulus, everything happened instantly, there were no delays. In fact the words “delay” and “procrastination” in relation to evangelism do not occur in the Scriptures. These words do not simply mean staying stationary but are retro-productive, making us go in reverse direction. Most of the activities in traditional jamaats prove counter-productive. So abandon whatever method you are now using and get on 'Isa’s fast track, because he is coming quickly (John 4:35; 8:32,36; Col. 1:26-28).

*Our jamaats are full of managers who drive from behind, but there are very few visionary leaders who, like their Master, lead from the front, moving towards a destination such that their sheep hear their voice.* (John 10:4)

## THE GREAT COMMITMENT

Just to know God's Great Commandment, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and your neighbour as yourself,*" is good but is not good enough. Loving our lost neighbour is just as important. Knowing the 'Isa's Supreme Order to go and make disciples of all nations proves vain, until we make the Great Commitment to obey it. Anyone not making that commitment, is not yet crucified with al-Masih, is living in his carnality by his appetites or is ignorant of the truth, and therefore not to be regarded as a committed follower of 'Isa. (Rom 6:6; Gal. 2:20, 5:24)

Commitment requires we give up something that is precious to us. Abraham was called to offer up his beloved son, Isaac. Moses, an adopted son of the daughter of Pharaoh, gave up being a contender to the throne, the treasures and the pleasures of Egypt, choosing to help his own people. Elisha, when called by Elijah for ministry, gave up his property, chopped his plough into pieces, sacrificed his oxen and walked off to receive a mantle with a double dose of the Spirit. 'Isa gave up his life as a ransom for many. Peter gave up fishing for a living, becoming a prolific fisher of men. Paul gave up a brilliant career as a Pharisee in order to preach the unsearchable riches of al-Masih among Gentiles. (1 Cor. 4:13; Eph. 3:8)

Kingdom planting may begin with a few individuals, but it must not stop there. For the blessings of the Kingdom are not to be enjoyed in isolation, but in community. Like lightning, it must shine forth from one end of the sky and plant the Kingdom everywhere. Confining the light under the bushel, as most 'Isa followers do inside of buildings, is the worst form of Kingdom, because it is of no use to those who sit in the darkness of the shadow of death. (Luke 17:21;24; Matt. 4:16; 5:15)

The first step in spiritual warfare is to get all the demons out of ourselves (2 Tim. 2:21). Hold a witch hunt and you will find plenty of them, "*for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*" The ticket for entry into the Kingdom must be stamped with repentance and submission to the lordship of 'Isa. Next, we must offer ourselves, our body and mind, as our reasonable, spiritual sacrifice for his service

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(Romans 12:1-2). Then, we must become walking and talking temples of the living God. Now, every temple must have its own congregation, lest it prove of no use. All it requires to be a functional congregation is to have two or three gathering together. 'Isa will be in their midst, just as surely as God fellowshiped in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Hawa. (Matt. 18:18-20; Acts 2:38,39; 1Cor. 3:23; 2 Cor. 6:16)

### HOW TO WAGE SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Not by direct confrontation, for the devil is a dirty fighter who has no respect for rules of the game. *“Be sober and vigilant, your adversary, the devil is like a roaring lion seeking to devour you”* (1 Peter 5:8). Lions attack a weak animal from behind. Let us not be fools like the six hundred soldiers of Tennyson’s *The Charge of the Light Brigade* who, knowing that there were canons to the left, to the right and in front of them, marched into the valley of death. The devil is cunning and a wily fighter who uses deception. The dragon, the old serpent is a liar and a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44; Rev. 12:9; 20:2). Jews rightly call him *Samael*, the agent of death. When the devil attacked Adam and Hawa, he succeeded. When he attacked 'Isa, he failed. God created an unbridgeable divide when he said, *“I will put enmity between the seed of the woman and the serpent”* (Gen. 3:15). 'Isa told us to be innocent as doves and cunning as the serpent. Remember, our task is to crush the serpent’s head under our feet before he digs his fangs into our heel (Gen. 3:15; Rom. 16:20).

Chinese military general Sun Tzui in *The Art of War* (c. 600 BC), wrote:

*“If you know your enemy and know yourself, then you can win all your battles. If you only know yourself, but not your opponent, then you may win or you may lose. If you know neither yourself nor your enemy, then you will always be in danger.”*

*Paraphrasing general Sun, we can say:*

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*If you know the Quran and the Bible, then you can win some debates. If you only know the Bible, then you may or may not win an argument. If you do not know either the Quran or the Bible, then you will be shamed. If you perform a supernatural miracle, then no one will be able to deny.*

We know that an average Muslim pretends to honour and reverence 'Isa al-Masih but comes with a mind-set that contradicts the Fatherhood of God, the Sonship and divinity of 'Isa al-Masih, His atoning death on the cross, His resurrection, the Tri-unity of God. He dismisses it all by stating that the modern day Bible is corrupted. Islam further divides humans into two camps, the Muslims (submitted or surrendered) and unbelievers who are *kafirs* (infidels). These include all Jews, Christians and even non-Salafi Muslims like Shias, Ahmadias and other sects who venerate saints, visit shrines, believe in *Hadith* (acts and sayings of Mohammad) which were written about 200 years after Mohammed's death.

This is actually taught to children in Wahhabi/*Salafi* (Saudi version of strict puritanical Islam committed to implementing the draconian *Sharia* law), in *madrassas* (Islamic schools) throughout the world fuelled by billions of petro-dollars. This is where suicide bombers and *jihadis* are recruited. Pakistan alone has over 40,000 *madrassas*, including 2000 for girls. Many proud mothers will tearfully but proudly tell how their two sons became martyrs in a jihad (holy war) and their only daughter blew herself up as a suicide bomber for the sake of Islam.

Ignoring the challenge of Islam has consequences because... *“God has made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the earth, and has appointed their times, and their boundaries; that they should seek God, if haply they might feel after him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.”* (Acts 17:26-27)

## CULTURAL IMMERSION

A great war is raging in the heavens. Muslims are saturating the Web with well-researched arguments against Christianity, deceiving the very

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elect (Matt. 24:24). There are many Christian-Muslim debates viewable at YouTube.com on the internet. The Muslims come well prepared, twisting the Scripture, consistently make a laughing stock of Christians who come ill prepared. There are tens of thousands of registered *Madrassas* (Islamic schools) in the world and whatever else they teach there, they also teach them how to handle Christian objections. On the other hand, there are hardly any 'Isa-jamaats or Bible schools that teach Christians on how to confidently and boldly handle Islamic objections. This is in spite of the command in the Scriptures about being instant to rebuke, refute and exhort, in season and out of season. This is not to be done in order to win debates but to do everything possible, in humility, to win some for al-Masih. (2 Tim. 3:16-7; 4:2; Tit. 2:15)

*Bible study without the built-in DNA of outreach to the lost is a wasteful theological exercise. The Bible should open our eyes to signs, miracles, healings and new souls being added, leaping at us from every page of the New Testament. It should fill us up with passion, power and vision to take an exciting spiritual voyage that gathers fellow pilgrims throughout the journey.*

*There was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven (Rev. 12:7-8).*

To wage spiritual warfare, one must be sound in doctrine (teaching). Sound doctrine is not having a lot of knowledge of theology, but having an ability to convince and convict those who contradict (Tit. 1:9). In other words, we should have the ability to confidently handle Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Atheists, agnostics and adherents of 10,000 other distinct religions of the world, not counting their thousands of sects and denominations listed in the encyclopaedia prepared by Oxford University Press. Incidentally no religion saves, not even Christianity. Salvation comes by grace through one's faith in the person of 'Isa al-Masih.

*Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and many 'Isa disciples are temple-centric, their life and religion revolving around heaps of masonry. 'Isa al-Masih is now building a new temple, not made by human hands from dead stones but with living stones like us (Acts 7:48-49; 1 Pet. 2:5-6).*

## THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD

The Scripture further says that he who denies the Father and the Son is Masih al Dajjal (anti-Masih). It goes on to say that he who does not have the Son, does not have the Father either (1 John 2:22-23).

Our relationship with the All-Mighty is not simply one of servant to master -- it goes much deeper. God is not only *Malkeinu*, our King, but also *Avinu*, our Father. A mere servant follows orders, whilst a child does what he knows his father wants most. In Islam, there is no fatherhood. Muslims cannot not adopt sons, because Mohammad disowned his adopted son Zayd to marry his own daughter-in-law Zaynab.

The Way of 'Isa is all about being sons and daughters of God (John 1:12) and inheritors of His Kingdom (Acts 26:18; Dan. 7:18;27; Rev. 21:7). Adam was given the Garden of Eden, Ibrahim was given Canaan, and ten tribes by a blood covenant (Gen 15:18). Every family in Israel was to occupy their own inheritance. Joshua chided them for dilly-dallying when they delayed doing so (Josh. 18:3). God our Father has commanded us, *"Ask me and I will give you nations for an inheritance and the utter most part of the earth for your possession"* (Psa. 2:8). As God instructed Adam to guard his inheritance, so He has given each believer an inheritance, be it our neighbourhood, workplace, office or wherever. Yes, we have to ask for it, possess it and guard it. We are not a good son or daughter of God unless we are guarding our workplace, which is our inheritance, from the attacks of the enemy. The whole step-by-step process of opening spiritual eyes and acquiring an inheritance is given later in 'Isa's strategy.

## SPIRITUAL OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

To convict and convince Muslims requires tangible knowledge of their culture and of their Holy book, the Quran. Even though the Quran contradicts the Bible, history and archaeology, there remains inside it enough dynamite to demolish Muslim objections to the gospel. This is

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not to give validity to their book nor call for planting Quran-friendly jamaats. Yet the Scripture does command us to *“test all things and hold fast to that which is good.”* In most cases, an average Christian is blissfully ignorant of the ammunition available to him or her. God *“in past generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways... left not himself without witness”*.

Cyrus, a heathen, Persian king of Babylon (modern-day Iran) was called by God, *“My Shepherd who will perform all my desire”*, long before he was born. Later God called Cyrus his ‘anointed’. All nations, heathen or pagan, have some kind of witness either in their creation stories, in their scriptures or in their conscience. However, being monotheistic, Muslims have the most witness in their scriptures and in their culture. (Acts 14:15-17; 1 Thess. 5:21; ‘Isa 44:28; 45:1)

A man blind from birth was healed by ‘Isa. When confronted by his neighbours, he said that he had been healed by **“a man”**. A little later he was confronted by Pharisees and told them that he was healed by **“a prophet”**. Still later he again met ‘Isa himself and his spiritual eyes were opened, calling him **Lord and worshipping** him. Muslim’s are still stuck in believing that ‘Isa was only a prophet and are waiting to have their spiritual eyes opened, to be confronted with their Lord ‘Isa al-Masih so they can worship God in spirit and in truth, not in special meeting halls but in the comfort and security their homes and jamaats. (John 4:23; chapter 9)

## MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS FOR MUSLIMS

### ‘Isa al-Masih is more than a prophet

*“All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me”* (Matt. 28:18-20). What prophet ever has such authority? *“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* (John 14:6) Has any prophet ever said that?

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*“The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up...”* (Matt. 11:5) Can a prophet do any such thing?

The Qur’an agrees that ultimate forgiveness belongs to God, for it asks, “Who can forgive sins except Allah?” (3:135).

*Yes ‘Isa promised, “Your sins are forgiven.”* (Luke 5:23) Can a prophet forgive sins?

According to the Qur’an, “Allah is the Truth” (22:6). ‘Isa, however, applies this as a title for himself:

*“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father (God) except through me”* (John 14:6).

*“I and the Father are one.”* (John 10:30) Can a prophet claim that?

*‘Isa accepted worship.* (John 20:24-29) Can a prophet be worshipped?

*“Before Abraham was, I AM” [the name of YHWH]* (John 8:58; Exo. 3:13-14). Who can call himself *Eheyeh asher Eheyeh* (I AM THAT I AM)?

*“Today you will be in paradise with me.”* (Luke 23:43) Do prophets take others to paradise?

*“I will raise him to life on the last day.”* (John 6:54) Can a prophet raise anyone to life on the day of judgement?

Qur’an 22:7—Allah will resurrect those who are in the graves.

*‘Isa exclaimed, “I give them eternal life and they shall never perish.”* (John 10:28) Can a prophet give eternal life to anyone?

Surah 57:3 of the Qur’an refers to Allah as “the First and the Last, the Most High and the Most Near.”

Risen from death, Jesus proclaimed: *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end... there is no other God beside me.”* (Rev. 1:8; ‘Isa 44:6) Which prophet would have the audacity to claim that?

*The answer to all those questions is obviously, No, for God alone can make such statements.*

### **'Isa the Messiah is God's Only Son.**

Quran vehemently denies that God could have son. However, the moment Islam accepts the supernatural virgin birth of 'Isa al-Masih, from a chaste Maryam , exalted above all the women of the world, it has moved toward accepting his divinity, as it does some twenty-five times in the Quran (Surah 3:42). We only need to explain that according to Quran, God breathed into 'Isa his own *Ruh* (Spirit) and a *ruhani* (spiritual) son was born, not only a *jismani* (physical) son. Surah 19:20-21; 21:91.

His name, 'Isa, means “salvation of Yahweh”, and his title al-Masih means “the anointed one”, affirming his unique messianic office. In Semitic languages, the word “name” (*sem, shem* ) is not only a tag, for the word goes far beyond, categorizing a person's character, renown, reputation, dignity, and essential being.

Furthermore, in calling 'Issa his Son, God was identifying 'Isaa as the One who inherits all that God has created. (Psa. 2:6-12; John 13:3; Heb. 1:4; 2:8)

### **'Isa made himself out to be God**

*'Isa took God's Unique Name.* Muslims often ask where in the scripture Jesus claimed to be God? Well, he did not exactly say he was, rather he showed he was by what he did. 'Isa once led three of his disciples up a high mountain where he was transfigured before them, and a Voice said to them, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him” (Mark 9:1-7). In John 17:11-12 'Isa al-Masih claims for himself the unique name of God, YHWH, praying "*Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me...*" In his Supreme Order, 'Isa commanded, “Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Note the name is in then singular, underscoring that all three have the same one name, YHWH.

*Isa is the Word of God.* 'Isa is called by at least 33 names in the Quran, including that of *Kalimat Ullah*, the Word of God (Surah 3:45). In Sura 4:171, 'Isa is called, “His Word.” In Sura 3:45 the Quran states that the

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angels, when announcing to Maryam the unique conception of 'Isa, told her that Allah was giving her good tidings *"of a Word from him."* The expression used here, in the original Arabic, is *kalimatim minhu*, that is. *kalmia* (word), *min* (from), *hu* (him). Now then, Isa al-Masih is the only human being who ever lived whom God called "Word from God". This same title had already been applied to 'Isa in the *Injil* (John 1:1, 2, 14; Rev. 19:13). Thus, 'Isa is more than a message from God, he is himself the Message.

*Isa is the Spirit of God.* In Islam, Jesus is given the title, *Ruh'ullah*, meaning "Spirit of God." It comes from Sura 4:171, where 'Isa is called *wa ruhun minhu*, "a spirit from him." The same verbal structure is used for the Word of God: ***ruh*** (spirit), ***min*** (from), ***hu*** (him). In his commentary on the Quran, Yusuf Ali says that the "phrase used is stronger" than that for the Holy Spirit (*Ruhul Qudus*) *who*, in the Quran, is identified as the Angel Gabriel. However, she [Maryam] was not impregnated by angel Jibreel as many Muslims believe but '*God breathed his Spirit into him...*' Quran 32:9". Ali seems to imply that this Spirit of God is greater than the mighty angel, being "the divine spirit which we can no more define adequately than we can define in human language the nature and attributes of God."

*Isa was not created.* If God is Spirit, then surely, 'Isa al Masih is God, for he is the Spirit of God. And if he is the Spirit of God and the Word of God, then he is not a created being like Adam who was created from dust and unto dust he returned. 'Isa being the Spirit of God and the Word of God cannot have been created, since He exists from eternity to eternity.

*Isa is Alive Today.* The Quran only has one statement to confirm the ascension of Jesus but it has been enough to convince Muslims throughout the world that he is there alive, to this day, in the very presence of Allah. The text reads: "*Allah took him up to himself*" (Surah 4:158). This statement is made in contrast to the claim of the Jews that they had killed the Messiah Jesus, the son of Mary. Some Muslims believe 'Isa was rescued from crucifixion and taken to heaven without dying. Despite their different explanations, both the Quran and the *Injil* teach the ascension of Jesus, alive and in bodily form, from earth to

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heaven. He ascended into heaven, because he had come from there in the first place. If he had returned to dust, as all other men do, then no one would believe that he was the unique Son of God. (John 16:28)

*Isa is Coming Back.* “*Isa is a portent of the hour of doom. Have no doubt about its coming*” (Sura 43:61). Various Muslim teachings suggest a return of ‘Isa. These include Hadiths such as Sahih Muslim (Vol 1, pg. 93), Sahih al-Bukhari (Vol 4, pg. 137), Ibn Sa’d, *Kitab al-Tabaqat al-Kabir* (Vol 1, pg. 47).

Jesus is a Trinity. The Quran, in the very passage (Sura 4:171)—which contains a denial of the deity of Jesus, “*Do not say Trinity! God is only one God. Far be it from his glory to have a son.*”—paradoxically attributes three titles to him which affirm his deity! He is Anointed Messiah; he is the divine Word of God; and he is a Spirit come from God. Jesus was not just another prophet called to office at an appropriate point in time. Rather he is the very message of God, who came from God, whose very spirit is the Spirit of God (Sura 58:22).

The Injiil remains Incorruptible. The Qur’an affirms the inspiration and reliability of the biblical Scriptures (3:3-4, 5:47, 5:66, 7:157, 10:94), as well as man’s inability to corrupt God’s Word (6:114-115, 18:27). The Qur’an further affirms that the Injiil is the Word of God. Muslims therefore must not reject what the Injiil says, that ‘Isa al-Masih is God. The Qur’an commands Christians to judge by the Gospel: “Let the people of the Gospel judge by what Allah hath revealed therein. If any do fail to judge by the light (*noor*) of what Allah hath revealed, they are (no better than) those who rebel” Qur’an 5:4.

Qur’an affirms not only the Injiil, but also the Torat (Qur’an 5:43). Thus, to allege that the Bible be corrupted would contradict the Qur’an, which was written some seven hundred years after the Injiil was written. This no true Muslim can afford to do.

## THE QURAN AFFIRMS THE UNIQUENESS OF 'ISA AL-MASIH

**'Isa's virgin birth:** "And Mary, daughter of 'Imran, whose body was chaste, therefore We breathed therein something of Our Spirit. And she put faith in the words of her Lord and His scriptures, and was of the obedient." (Surah 66:12)

**'Isa was sinless:** "He said: I am only a messenger of thy Lord, that I may bestow on thee a faultless (sinless=holy) son." (Surah 19:19)

**'Isa was the Masih, God's Word, the Mediator:** "(And remember) when the angels said: O Mary! Lo! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of **"a word"** from him, whose name is the Messiah, Isa, son of Mary, illustrious in the world and the Hereafter, and one of those brought near (unto Allah)"(Surah 3:45). [Al Masih means "the anointed one, the Messiah"]

**'Isa worked miracles:** *"I create for you from clay the shape of a bird, then I blow into it, and it becomes a live bird by God's leave. I restore vision to the blind, heal the leprous, and I revive the dead by God's leave... This should be a proof for you, if you are believers. Therefore, you shall observe God, **and obey me.**"* (Sura 3:49,50.)

**'Isa is the intercessor:** *"Say: Unto Allah belongeth all intercession. His is the Sovereignty of the heavens and the earth. And afterward unto Him ye will be brought back (near unto Allah) "* (Surah 39:44; 3:45). [Isa al-Masih even now occupies the position and office of intercessor with God the Father. (Heb. 7:25)

**'Isa's death and resurrection:** The Qur'an says in the words of Isa, *"So peace is on me the day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life again!"* (Surah 19:33). Exactly the same words are used for the death of John the Baptist (Surah 19:15). Quran further says *"And when Allah said: O Isa, I am going to terminate the period of your stay and cause you to ascend unto Me and purify you of those who disbelieve and make those who follow you above those who disbelieve to the day of resurrection; then to Me shall be your return"* (Surah 3:55). Even though Quran does not say that Allah raised 'Isa "alive", Muslim

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apologists claim that this does not indicate the death of 'Isa al-Masih, but that Allah merely brought Him up bodily to him through ascension.

"In the Arabic language, the phrase "Inni mutawaf-feeka" means "I am gathering thee." Some say the word does not indicate death, while others affirm that al-Masih did actually die. As an Arab, I have never known of any other meaning than death for this expression, within or without the Quran." (Anis Shorosh, author of *Islam Revealed*)

One big problem with 'Isa followers is that they do not even know what questions to ask. It is not within the scope of this booklet to go into details of the frequently asked questions, but the time has come for every 'Isa jamaat to conduct culture-specific training, equipping the saints for engagement with Islamists for which excellent resources, mentors and teachings are available on the Internet. While doing so, it is important to recognize that the true enemy is neither a religion, a culture nor a terrorist group, but it is *"the god of this world who has blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of al-Masih, who is the image of God, should shine unto them"* (2 Cor. 4:4).

This blindness cannot be removed by intellectual debates alone. At the end of our winning or losing a debate, the Muslim will still crown us with the title of *soower khor* (pig eater). His mental strongholds have to be broken down with spiritual warfare and his spiritual blindness removed through preaching with mighty signs and wonders, like that of Philip in Samaria and as Paul did from Jerusalem to Illyricum.

Even so, Paul visited heathen temples in Athens, studying their instruments of worship as well as their pagan books, so he was able to quote from the poems of Aratus to Jupiter, *"In him we live, and move, and have our being; as your own poets have said."* Read Paul's address to the intellectuals at Mars Hill in Acts 8:5-12; 17:2, 28. Romans 15:19.

*Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me and seen in me – put into practice. And the God of peace shall be with you.* (Phil. 4:9)

The fundamental differentiates Islam from the Way of 'Isaa is that, in Islam, man seeks God and tries to reach him through works of righteousness by legalistically fulfilling the five pillars of Islam: *Shahada*

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(reciting the creed), *Salat* (five daily ritual prayers), *Sawm* (the Ramadan fast), *Zakat* (2.5% almsgiving) and *Hajj* (pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in one's lifetime).

At the end of it all, Islam offers no guarantee of *Nijaat* (salvation) because it remains only by *Insha-Allah* (Allah willing). You just hope that your good works will outweigh your bad works. However, we know that God, being 100% holy, you cannot reach him with 51% good works.

The Way of 'Isaa is just the opposite. It is the Most Holy God who is seeking lost sinners: 'Isa explained, "*I have come to seek and save that which was lost.*" "*While we were yet sinners, 'Isa died for us.*" We cannot go to heaven by our own works of righteousness, because our best works remain like filthy rags. One become righteous in God's sight only by being washed in 'Isa's blood. (Luke 19:7, 10; Rom. 5:8; Isa. 64:6)

All faiths require that their devotees offer up something to their god. Some offer fruits, flowers, coconuts, money. 'Isa al-Masih is most glorified by those who offer him their broken and contrite heart as their *korban* (sacrifice, Ps. 51:17).

## AN APOSTOLIC-SHAPED STRATEGY

All modern warfare is fought on having as much prior information (research) as possible about the enemy. Moses sent spies to secretly find out all they could about the land of Canaan. Joshua sent spies to reconnoitre Jericho. Nehemiah went out by night to assess the state of the city of Jerusalem. Gideon himself spied on an enemy unnumbered as the grasshoppers or the sand of the sea shore, before he attacked them with just three hundred untrained, but divinely-chosen peasant warriors (Jud. 7:11-16).

*The goal of research is not just to obtain information, interpret and analyse it, but to change the world.* (Karl Marx in *How to Change the World* by Eric Hobsbawm)

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A typical pastor-shaped strategy has a triple agenda: (1) to increase membership, (2) to erect bigger and better facilities and (3) to raise a bigger budget. In contrast, an apostolic strategy is not made by a human but originates from the Throne Room of the Commander-in-Chief. *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths”* (Prov. 3:5-6). This does not mean that we are to commit intellectual suicide, but we do have to stay connected, making ourselves available to implement His strategy.

In China, Western strategies became so competitive and foreign dominated, that God completely dismantled them. The Communists expelled the foreigners, jailed or executed the nationals, desecrated their buildings, driving the 'Isa followers underground in secret house-jamaats. This move of God resulted in a hundred million new followers in fifty years. Communist Cuba banned churches but allowed meeting in homes, which resulted in ten thousand house-jamaats in one decade.

*Chinese scholar Lu Daji, estimates that the number of 'Isa followers could increase from the present 60 to 130 million to 200 million in the next 20 years. Faced with such abnormal growth, he says, the state must undertake legal and administrative means to deny the 'Isa movement a free market lest it expand out of control, changing the face of China.*

This would have never been possible through traditional Western models which remain mired in intellectualism and programming whilst weak in the supernatural and spontaneity. The biblical model is just the opposite. Paul called the Thessalonian jamaat his “glory and joy”, because its Gentile members were following the Judean model which was rapidly growing and multiplying in spite of persecution. Which model are you following? Hopefully it is not of the highly-structured, unproductive Constantinian variety. (Rom. 15:19-20; 1 Thess. 2:14; Acts 9:31).

There have been many instances when God allowed Communism, persecution and even violence, as is currently happening in Muslim countries, to cause exponential growth and multiplication of 'Isa followers. Though God does not change his Kingdom plan, yet he

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employs very elastic methods and means, and he can use even the most adverse situations and circumstances for his purposes. Please, do not ask why Saudi Arabia does not allow construction of Christian religious buildings. Hey, God is not interested in religious buildings, for He is building and expanding his Kingdom daily by adding new living stones. Even though Saudi Arabia has banned the entry of personal Bibles, the Lord has so arranged things that the Bible is entering by the thousands through laptops and cell phones as well as by round-the-clock radio waves and television broadcasts in Arabic language.

## PRAYER BATTLERS

*Spying is not just hacking into what the enemy is up to but includes tapping into God's Word, tuning into the dialogue that is going on around the Throne. For that to happen, we need to change our prayer style from talking mode to listening mode. It is the patient, persistent, passionate and purpose-oriented listening prayer that will give us a winning strategy. Just like a signal officer on the front line must remain connected to the command office, fetching all the relevant information to make tactical decisions on which depend not only survival but victory in the combat. We must pray with our spirit and with understanding. (1Cor.14:1,5, 15)*

“Pray the word, not your worries. Pray the promise, not your problems.” (Cindy Trimm in *The Atomic Power of Prayer*).

Let us go as prayer warriors before we go as reapers (Psa. 126:5-6). Let us not go talk or preach to someone first, but talk (pray) to God first, creating an environment of prayer that will bring that person to us for prayer. 'Isa's followers should not be known as those who despise others and burn Qurans, or draw cartoons of their prophet, or prophesy dooms day, but be known as those who love others and pray for them.

*Talking to God makes you only an intercessor but listening to him and becoming obedient, elevates you to a prophet status, the highest gift (1Cor. 14:1-3).*

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It is not the amount of firepower we have, rather it is thinking God's thoughts, then structuring a strategy for guerrilla warfare, that will demolish the enemy. If we have a right strategy, then we can win a war with minimal casualties. But if we are led by a foolish general, then he will get everyone killed and lose the war. Most traditional church leaders are theologians trained to be aquarium keepers. Taking possession of new territory, where al-Masih has not been named, requires an entirely different aptitude, knowledge and communication skill set. This is not a matter of increasing your organizational power, but of extending God's Government. The objective is not so to fight to win a war; for the real skill lies in taking possession of enemy territory, if possible, without firing a single shot (Rom. 15:19-20). In today's digital world this is easily doable.

We are living in Daniel's last days when communication and knowledge have been greatly increased (Dan. 12:4). Simple individuals "tweeting" with each other are overthrowing powerful dictators and changing governments. The speed at which simple house gatherings are multiplying; they will soon replace the underperforming, established churches. After all, home-made fruit juices prove far superior and tastier than anything the liquor barons can provide.

*The Lord needs Web-Warriors who are tweeting and saturating the social networking sites with the gospel, because he is preparing to return riding on the wave of a digital white horse.*

## DISCIPLESHIP CHAINS

Our great task remains to spark JPM, completely aside from temple, professional clergy, electronic equipment and money from overseas. Like Andrew, the brother of Petros, we must set up a disciple-making chain (John 1:35-41). We can do so by mobilising a few believers to mobilize other believers to gather their friends. And if they do not know what to say, then just let them show a film about 'Isa al-Masih that portrays his passion, in their local language, followed by praying for everyone's

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needs. Almost immediately, you will have a JPM going. Telling the parables of 'Isa and sharing personal testimonies of healing and deliverance has a powerful, transformational impact. (2 Tim. 2:2)

*Evangelism without discipleship peddles cheap grace. Discipleship without your becoming a change agent would be like a wedding without a marriage. And a change agent without a vision for sparking a JPM is a celebration without a victory.*

Over emphasis on lung power (preaching), while trivializing spiritual power, will generate a lot of sound and fury but little fruit. *“For the Kingdom of God comes not in word, but in power”* (1 Cor. 4:20). Today, most house-jamaats are planted, not following a wonderful discourse, but after a powerful manifestation, as it happened in NT times (Acts 19:8-12).

*“These signs shall accompany them that believe: in my name shall they cast out demons... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed”* (Mark 16:17,18, 20).

## STORYING VERSUS SERMONING

Everyone loves and remembers a story. The Bible recounts hundreds of stories which, together, make one Grand Story. God himself is the Story's hero and author. It has an introduction, plot, action, tragedy, mystery, climax and conclusion like no other. Some three quarters of the Bible is story, fifteen percent praise, and only ten percent explanation. 'Isa was a master story teller and would not teach without relating a parable (Matt. 13:34). The West remains afflicted with a Greco-Roman culture of lectures, seminars and sermons, whilst the East belongs to an oral tradition. This mismatch has resulted in a disaster of global magnitude with a dismal performance by Western workers coming to the East where some four billion orally-oriented live.

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Yet a Western delusion goes on that we have to memorize verses from the Bible to be a good 'Isa follower. But ask those who have memorized John 3:16 out of its context, what precedes or follows and they will have no idea. We are not instructed to memorize verses to show off in weekly jamaats or as preachers, but to know the whole narrative, to understand the context, the content and the message. *"Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation and to teaching"* (1Tim. 4:13). Faith comes by hearing the whole Word, not by 'berry-picking' verses from here and there. Even faith is of no use, unless you make that faith, though the size of a mustard seed, move mountains (problems) and produce miracles. Sadly, the world is full of faithful 'Isa followers who are not doing anything! (Rev. 1:3; Rom. 10:17; 1Tim. 4:13; Matt. 17:20).

Preachers say, a sermon consists of three parts, (1) an introduction of a topic, 2. an explanation, and (3) a conclusion. Yet they put so much preparation into distilling a sermon that at the end of it, no one can reproduce it. However, story-telling has a completely different dynamic. It is about a person or persons, who made a decision in a particular situation, the action that followed, and its impact on the person and on others. A story comes across as non-confronting. The Prophet Nathan did not confront Dawud about his sin but told him a story about one man who stole a poor man's only lamb. Dawud became full of righteous anger only to discover, afterwards, the story was all about him. The impact proved enormous. The Book of Daniel recounts the story of the fiery trial of Shadreck, Meshach and Abednego, and of how their faith in the Most High God spread throughout the known world through the very heathen governors and rulers who were eating, drinking, carousing and indulging in idolatry with Emperor Nebuchadnezzar. (Daniel chapter 3)

*Communication about God cannot be limited to religious rituals. God himself communicates in many ways, even through the most unworthy. The object of communication is not just to impress others but to change them into agents of change (Gal. 6:6).*

The genius of storytelling is that almost anyone can tell and retell a story. Even children and illiterates can do so. Storytelling does not require theological gymnastics. Paulus, when addressing Greeks and

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Romans in their culture and context, was only explaining what 'Isa taught. Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and other Orientals need to hear the story of 'Isa in their contexts and cultures which are oral.

As when telling a joke, make sure that you do not have to explain your story. If we have to explain it, then we are a bad story teller and need to hone our skills. 'Isa did not explain his parables, though he often asked counter questions. We, too, should ask a lot of questions and keep asking them until everyone has got the story and its message accurately. This is a key to reproduction.

*Ninety-nine percent of 'Isa followers only preach to fellow followers, making good money, feeling no remorse for the lost. Many religious mercenaries, resembling Simon the Samaritan who offered money for power to misuse the Holy Spirit, have gone to rich countries. Beware the Simons of this world who colonize your mind and peddle religion for the sake of filthy lucre!*

## **DISCIPLE-MAKING IS A LEARNABLE SKILL**

They can teach us theology in a classroom, which is knowledge of God but that does not mean that they know God. A lawyer knows all the laws and still breaks traffic laws. No one can teach us how a banana tastes like in a classroom; we have to eat it. No one can teach us fishing in a classroom; we have to go where the fish is. We cannot find the lost sheep in the class room, we have to go and find them wherever they are and learn the skills on how to flock them. We cannot be a fruit-bearing tree in a lecture room; we have to be planted in the world to bear fruit. Like all the above assignments, disciple-making is a skill and can be learned and honed out there in the world.

Parents do not their teach children how to walk; they make them walk. Jamaat is an incubator wherein spiritual genetics for making disciples must be planted from infancy. Making disciples requires entrepreneurship skills for changing people's perception about their own

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spiritual needs. It is the ability to sell your product (the Kingdom) to those who do not think they need it.

*“Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they who are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever” (Dan. 12:2-3).*

Where you will wake up in eternity depends very much on what you do now. In a traditional jamaat, you have a good chance of dying without ever leading anyone to al-Masih. *“It is appointed for humans to die once, then comes their judgment” (Heb. 9:27).*

‘Isa’s Supreme Order cannot be taught well in a classroom or in institutional jamaats, because it requires transferring disciple-making skills, which can only be imparted out there, while tending the flock in the field, in the task of reaching out to the neglected fields of the world.

*Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, instruction, and understanding (Prov. 23:23).*

Jewish children are encouraged to ask loads of questions in their schools, and the world’s 12 million Jews (0.2% of world population) have 181 Nobel Prize winners, whilst the 1.4 billion Muslims (20% of world population) have only nine Nobel Prize winners, four of which are political peace prizes. This is because they hold that their Quran is too holy for Muslim children to ask questions in their madrassas.

*What you hear you forget; what you see you remember; what you do you understand. Confucius*

## CAUSES OF PERSECUTION

Hell is always in session and it is in the job description of demonic spirits to persecute new believers, to delude and deceive, wherever possible, the very elect (Matt. 24:24).

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The billion plus Muslims remain the largest, fastest-growing, yet most neglected people block. Yet less than one percent of 'Isa's global work force is engaged in ministry to Muslims. There is only one 'Isa follower working to reach each million Muslims. It would appear that 'Isa's Supreme Order did not apply to the Muslims. It is no wonder, even though their Quran (meaning "reading, recitation") is full of 'Isa al-Masih, not only do Muslims remain ignorant of 'Isa's Good News, but many remain downright hostile to it. Because of their wrong strategy, many of 'Isa's followers suffer persecution and even get killed. Fear of persecution, amongst other uncomfortable realities, which comes from ignorance, remains the commonest cause of 'Isa's followers opting not to work amongst Muslims.

Although predominantly Muslim, Middle Eastern and North African governments have harassed their Christians, Muslims and Jews, especially followers of sectarian Islam who represent an higher percentage of populations in those region than do Jews or Christians. (Pew Forum)

The most common, immediate cause of persecution remains the construction of religious buildings that have a cross on them. When you assemble in a building, the enemy knows exactly where you are located. Noisy worship services also announce to the wolves to come attack 'Isa's followers. Disciple-making requires neither a pulpit nor a guitar. It can be done by anyone, anytime, at anyplace. Remember, 'Isa has sent us out as lambs amongst wolves, and wolves like nothing better for lunch than lambs. So let 'Isa's lambs remain invisible and inaudible, quietly making disciple while staying below the radar, until their momentum becomes unstoppable (Luke 10:3).

Campaigns, conventions or other big events produce no disciples but do create problems for the local followers. In sensitive countries, big events attract religious police who quietly mix with the crowd and find out who are the key leaders. Then they prosecute them afterwards, as happened in China after the great and successful crusades of a popular, modern-day religious icon. Several hundred underground jamaats were shut down and their pastors arrested and put behind bars. Anyway,

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highly-organized, foreign-financed campaigns have no biblical basis, as they only make converts but no disciples while bringing glory, honour and moolah (money) to their organizers. Yet God will not share his glory with another (Isa. 42:8). Now is the day of invisible, rapidly-multiplying, simple, grassroots-led house-jamaats.

Another persecution-precipitating factor is the labelling of Muslim-background believers (MBBs) as “Christians” and asking them to attend traditional, Western-style buildings decorated with pictures and icons that feature music and dancing, handling the Holy Bible irreverently, and praying with hands in one’s pocket. Such practices can prove very distracting to MBBs and were not part of the first-century, New Testament jamaats. Even David did not do so inside the temple, as it had not been built at the time. In some cases, such practices prove tantamount to suicide, whilst in others, these render ‘Isa’s followers barren and infertile. These are not the issues wherever two or three gather to make disciples.

The apostle Paul insisted that it is faith in 'Isa is all that matters: *“If you will confess with your mouth that 'Isa is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved”* (Rom. 10:9). Faith is not converting to a new religion or a different socio-religious identity. In fact, 'Isa never said, “Go convert all nations to Christian religion”; he simply asked us to make disciples.

Instead of focusing on evangelism and converting others to a Christian religion, we are to focus on 'Isa as the central figure of a global movement that transcends religious distinctions and identities. 'Isa came to demolish all religions and to unite everyone under his own banner. *“There are other sheep that are not in this fold. I must bring them, too; they will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd”* (Rom. 10:9-13; Phil 2:9-11; John 10: 16).

New 'Isa followers should be nurtured and matured secretly in networks of small groups, as a baby is protected in its mother’s womb. The Greek word for “brethren” or brother (adelphos) derives from delphus meaning “womb”. Public methods can result in serious persecution, even in death. Currently, more than a hundred thousand

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new followers get killed every year for their faith, the majority of them in Muslim countries. Massimo Introvigne, a representative the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in a document titled "Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians", commented that this figure does not include victims of civil wars or wars between nations, but only those put to death because they are followers of 'Isa.

It is important to remember that the word Christian occurs no more than three times in the Scriptures while the word disciple occurs 259 times. Jewish followers of 'Isa in Jerusalem were never called Christians but "people of the Way" (Acts 9:2). It was much later, in Gentile Antioch, where follower were derogatorily called Christians (Acts 11:26). Myriads of Jewish followers of 'Isa in Jerusalem continued to practice circumcision, shaving of the head, even the offering of animal sacrifice. Even Paul did so.

Persecution filters out most non-performing 'Isaa followers.

There are some lessons here for those who are involved in the debate over C-5 and C-6 Insider movements, who equate cultural camouflage with compromise or syncretism. Contextualization versus Indigenization is a hotly debated western allergy, while we are busy catching fish, becoming all things to all men so as to save some. Nicodemus, a Pharisee, a big fish in the Sanhedrin, became a secret believer after his midnight meeting with 'Isa. Paulus advocates making disciples of important people in privacy. (Acts 16:1-4; 18:18; 21:20-26; John 3:1,2; Gal 2:2)

We are called to become fishers of men. Anybody who has gone fishing knows that you can catch small fish and pull them out easily (extraction method). But the big fish have to come through pulling and tugging, sometimes for a long time, until they is ready to be landed (incarnational approach).

While the hook and the net must be applied sooner or later, to say to a new Muslim follower of 'Isa to take up his cross and join a traditionalist jamaat, with its comfort, cushioned pews, a heated homes, motor cars, vulgar display of wealth, solar heating, air conditioners, medical

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expertise, processed foods, insurance policies, refrigeration, television, airplanes, security and the coffee shops — we could go on — would simply prove insensitive. Of course, he must make a total break with his bondage to Islam, but a break with his family is another matter. How else are they going to reach their extended family, if they do not keep their relationships? Instead of condemning them, we should find ways and means of building bridges for upholding our new-born brethren in Masih.

Cutting MBBs off from their community makes them drifters, floaters and transients. Many MBBs have been abused, harassed, even killed by extractors who removed from their community and cultural moorings. Too many Insiders must needlessly endure persecution instigated by both Muslim and Christian clerics. (Acts 26:17-18; Col 1:25-28)

Before you foolishly baptize Muslims publicly with water, you yourself should go through a “culture baptism”. Public baptism is only possible where steeples with crosses on them outnumber minarets with crescent moon and stars on them. When contextualizing or theologizing, make sure that you do not go over the top, such that believers keep the packaging while rejecting the message.

## **THREE LEVELS OF MATURITY IN CHRIST** **1 John chapters 2 and 3**

In one of his letters written to jamaats, the Apostle John, addressed them as children, youth and fathers (or parents), suggesting three levels of maturity.

*Children:* These are secret cultural insiders who have heard and believed ‘Isa’s good news, staying within their family and community. They have not yet revealed their faith, and for all practical purposes, appear to be Muslims. Millions of them are waiting for the tipping point before coming out in the open. We are not here to condemn them, but to pray for them that God should set them free in his own time. Low-profile, below-the-radar house-jamaats can greatly expedite the process.

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*Youth:* These are those who go through intense struggle, confess their faith, and often pay a price by being thrown out by their family and community. Some even pay the ultimate price by becoming a martyr. Remaining a believer is difficult enough while discipleship can be costly.

*Fathers:* These are overcomers who have endured through the struggle and are now fathering new believers into the Kingdom. However, in many cases, the threat of persecution persists. The worst-case scenario for them is to be taken around and shown off as a trophy or hired by a traditional jamaat to deliver sugar-coated sermons.

Our generation brims with superficial preachers, delivering sugar-coated sermons to make-me-feel-good listeners, many of whom feel offended at hard, strong teaching. Our cultural religion draws crowds enamoured with messages on love, heaven, blessing, prosperity and peace, but repulsed by righteousness, wrath, hell, warnings and curses. The Holy Bible remains a book of truth — not a book of sensation — whose teaching balances love with holiness, heaven with hell, blessing with curses, kindness with wrath, peace with suffering, grace with truth. (Stephen David, *Beware: Dangerous Christianity Ahead*, 2007)

Those who know about the love of God do not shy away from the fear of the Lord which is *“the beginning of wisdom”* (Psa. 111:10). There are more verses in the Scriptures about *“the fear of the Lord”* than about *“the love of God”*. Many deviant sexuals and other sinners are deluded into thinking that God loves all while forgetting how God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. You cannot mock God and get away with it indefinitely (Gal. 6:7). The baptism of 3000, their unity in apostolic teaching, in breaking bread, and in prayer led to a strong sense of fear among the disciples followed by signs and miracles (Acts 2:41-43).

*Healthy fear leads to obedience, obedience to righteousness, righteousness to fruitfulness, fruitfulness to rule, and rule to the Kingdom* (Psa. 103:17-19).

*Isa called ordinary fishermen to follow him so that he could make them fishers of men. Being followers of 'Isa is not the end; rather it is to become skilled fishers of men and women.*

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Maturity in relation to al-Masih comes by our achieving the status of a fisher of men and women. In practical terms, this means that we are to make disciples, baptise them, and equip them, then send them on to do the same with others, in turn. Anything less would leave us incomplete and unfulfilled. Our hierarchical rank and academic tags matter little. It is only when we become a fisher of men and women that Kingdom planting begins (Matt. 4:19). So then, let us aim to become a prolific spiritual father or mother and birth multitudes of spiritual children; *“Though you have ten thousand instructors in al-Masih, yet you do not have many fathers; for I have begotten you in al-Masih 'Isa through his good news”* (1Cor. 4:15).

### **MUST WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP?**

It is well known that for the first 300 years of the global 'Isa movement, the 'Isa jamaats were a simple, strategic, grassroots, multiplying, house-based gatherings. From the beginning it was a *movement*, not a stable, sustainable entity to be housed in a particular place meeting at a designated time. Gatherings were for family, the household of God, which eats, meets, multiplies and migrates. Of course, you must gather, but not for loud singing and preaching mistakenly called worship. Scripture encourages us to gather in order to comfort and pray for each other, to exhort one another, to provoke one another to good works, and to break bread from house to house. It is all about “one-another” with no room for any one dominating others. In OT times, worship was not possible without offering a sacrifice. The place of atonement and worship was at the altar. We are now that altar. 'Isa has shifted his residence into our heart from whence he now rules the world. (2 Chron. 7:12,14; Acts 2:42, 46; Heb. 10:24-25)

The first time the word “worship” comes in the Scriptures is when Ibrahim went to worship God by offering his son Ishaq (Isaac) as a sacrifice, not to sing songs. In fact, OT worshippers were forbidden to come “empty handed”. Coming noisily before 'Isa al-Masih, the King of

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kings and the Lord of lords, without offering up something, dishonours him. As His ministers, our job description is not to sermonise weekly to the same barren, fruitless followers, rather it includes offering up sanctified Gentiles. Worship is a serious business and should be taken with all seriousness, not as grade B entertainment. According to the NT, every time the followers gathered, the Lord added to their numbers. To gather together, without making disciples of new believers for the Kingdom, would be like breeding sheep that do not reproduce. (Heb. 10:24-25; Gen. 22:5; Deut. 16:16; Rom. 15:16; Acts 2:46-47)

Millions of lost people who are sitting in darkness, in the shadows of death, will enter eternity without al-Masih, unless we get off our cushioned benches and do something to stop this preventable mega-disaster. The rich man, who, centuries ago, went to hell because he did not take care of poor Lazarus, is still there.

*Eternity is not like Nikah Muta'h, a temporary contract marriage of convenience among Shias and other Islamic sects that may last one hour, one day, months or even longer. Eternity lasts not for hours, days, weeks, months or billions of years, but forever. (Luke 16:19-31)*

## SO WHAT WAS 'ISA'S STRATEGY?

'Isa planned out a step-by-step strategy for every believer to acquire an inheritance in heaven (Acts 26:17,18):

*Open the eyes of the Gentiles  
Turn them from darkness to light,  
Turn them from the power of Satan unto God  
Faith that is in Me  
They receive forgiveness of sins  
They receive an inheritance among the saints*

New believers will need further foundational teachings. (Heb. 6:1-2)

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From the elementary doctrines of al-Masih, let us go on to maturity through *laying a foundation of:*

*Repentance from dead works*

*Faith toward God,*

*Doctrine of baptisms*

*Laying on of hands (empowerment)*

*Resurrection of the dead*

*Eternal judgment.*

### **SET UP DISCIPLE-MAKING CHAINS**

'Isa planted the first house-jamaat in his own dwelling, making disciples of two guys, Andrew being one of them, who then went and set up a chain of disciples. Even though this jamaat lasted only a day, the disciple-making chain that he set up is still going on (John 1:35-41). Paul advocated for disciple-making chains when he instructed Timothy, *“The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit the same to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”* (2Tim. 2:2). Always having a same leader, same place, same people and same ritual, has no place in the ever expanding Kingdom of 'Isa our King.

*Do not construct a brick and mortar Saint Andrews Church building for a stagnant jamaat; start your own Operation Andrew by setting up a disciple-making chain programmed to reach to the ends of the earth. 'Isa and his disciples never made anyone a member of their jamaat; rather they made disciples who made more disciples, setting up an unending disciple-making chain. If it worked for them, then there is no reason why it should not work for us.*

'Isa formed a squadron of twelve that grew into a corps of seventy and then into a company of 120. Though this force was highly trained, he ordered his troops into their barracks until they had received fire power from on high. His weapons are not carnal but spiritual and mighty in God. Only after they had received their ammunition did he tell them all to go

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out and take possession, firmly planting the Kingdom of God in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and unto the ends of the earth. Anyone still sitting in the jamaat, stuck to a bench, shouting, "Praise the Lord, Hallelujah!" has missed the message and disobeyed the clear command. God does not blow the trumpet with an uncertain sound (1Cor. 14:8). Remember how Adam disobeyed God's clear command and died instantly, even though he was buried 930 years later. (Acts 1:8; 2:1-3)

Joshua fought many battles, but whenever he was disconnected from the heavenly command centre, he would lose. He was soundly defeated at Ai with many casualties, because he went on his own intelligence without consulting God. The objective was not only to defeat the enemy and win the battle, but to possess the land of Canaan and occupy it.

Prayer is neither a gift nor an office, for all God's people are called to be intercessors; "*men 'always' ought to pray and not faint*" (Luke 18:1). However, do not stay cooped up praying, for 'always' does not mean 24x7 or all the time, but as often as need be. When they came to arrest 'Isa, He said, "*I taught you daily in the temple.*" Obviously, 'daily' meant 'often', for on many days, Jesus did not enter the temple or even the city (Mark 14:49; Acts 13:52). Since we have been sent into the world (John 17:18), let us go to the next level, reap the harvest for which we have been praying, and thereby take possession of our inheritance which consists of peoples and places. "*Ask me and I will give you nations for an inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth as your possession*" (Psa. 2:8)

*They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He, who goes forth and weeps, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him (Psa. 126:5-6).*

'Isa prayed, listening to his Father, early in the morning, and spent the rest of the day out in the harvest field working (Mark 1:35-38).

God said, "*If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land*" (2 Chron. 7:14).

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*“And Joshua said to the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you?”* (Joshua 18:3)

In any warfare to dispossess the enemy and take possession of his territory as your inheritance, obeying your Commander-in-chief remains absolutely necessary. There are explicit commands in the Scripture which you must implement. Not to do so would amount to insubordination, spelling disaster for both the Captain and the soldiers.

Command 1. *“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift I told you about, the gift my Father promised. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”*. Wait till empowerment before plunging into ministry. (Acts 1:4,8).

Command 2. *“As you go, make disciples all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”*. The name is singular, for all three have the same name, YHWH. (Matt. 28:18,19)

Command 3. *“I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. By this shall all people know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”* (John 13:34-35)

### **PLANT A JPM (Jamaat Panting Movement)**

Beware! Church history is full of JPMs but they were always wiped out, not by the outside enemies but by the institutional jamaats. There is always a problem with getting stuck at a particular level with our ministries, training programs and methods. Periodically we must evaluate our concepts and their processes against God’s standards. It is like starting a school for the children. You cannot stay put at primary level but must constantly upgrade facilities, often outside the campus, until students become professionals.

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The spiritual DNA required to become a JPM Planter (Jamaat Planting Movement Planters) must be implanted at the primary level. This shifting of our paradigm from a temple model to a tabernacle one, not made with human hands, has as its goal, an abundant harvest. (Heb. 9:11; Acts 7:48-49; Luke 10:1-2)

### **The process:**

Every lost person to become a believer,  
Every believer to become a disciple-maker,  
Every disciple-maker to become a jamaat-planter,  
Every jamaat-planter to become a JPM-planter,  
Every JPM-planter to become a Kingdom-planter.

However well we might have done thus far, we must assess the place we have reached, and tweak the processes to produce Kingdom planters.

*The velocity of a JPM depends entirely on the quality and the number of its JPM planters. For best returns on the investment, plough your resources into the training of JPM planters.*

The next phase requires culture-specific training. There are JPMs going on amongst most nations except the Joos and the Boos (Jews and Buddhists). Unfortunately, the JPMs among Muslims and Hindus and others are producing believers but few disciples who become JPM planters.

We may identify amongst our staff members those who have a proven track record of sparking JPMs, or we may engage additional staff members. If we do not provide them with a salary, then we and they must find creative ways to empower them financially, because apostles and prophets make bad employees. For best results, go with volunteers. Do not only train JPs (jamat planters) but MPs (movement planters) who are of an entirely different calibre.

Such training has to be group specific whether ethnic, linguistic or cultural. Without sound knowledge of how to handle questions from a hostile group, CPs will not have courage to engage with them in dialogue. This is not about apologetics, which sounds defensive, nor about aggressive approaches that produce violence, but being sound in

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doctrine, which is not just academic knowledge but an ability to convict and convince those who contradict (Titus 1:5-9).

A one-time training would not be enough; provide instead short trainings, so that workers can go practice what they learnt and come back with a set of new questions. The lecture method is the most inefficient and should be avoided; provide instead plenty of time for small-group discussion. An understanding of others' sacred literature serves as a very useful bridge and should play a predominant role in training, following the model of Acts 17 model of Paul who, at Athens, made extensive use of Greco-Roman literature, culture and context.

With the present turmoil in the world, there is a certain urgency about starting many, low-profile, below-the-radar JPMs all over the world, in order to fulfil the mandate of 'Isa's Supreme Order. JPMs are the cheapest, most effective way of disciple-making nations. This present decade must belong to the JPM planters.

## HOW TO GET STARTED

JPMs in NT times were started by mighty signs and deeds. According to Quran, 'Isa was sent as a sign, so that is the best way to start. (Acts 19:8-12; Mark 16:15-20)

*"I have come to you with a sign from your Lord, that I design for you out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, and breathe into it, and it becomes a bird by Allah's Leave; and I heal him who was born blind, and the leper, and I bring the dead to life by Allah's Leave. And I inform you of what you eat, and what you store in your houses. Surely, therein is a sign for you, if you believe" (Surat 3:49, Al-Hilali & Khan).*

You can get started by obeying 'Isa's command: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt 6:33)

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On a scale of one to five, how would you rank each of the following priorities?

\_Your job, \_Your family, \_Your house, \_Your hobby, \_God's Kingdom.

Seeking God's Kingdom should be the first priority in your life, and everything else secondary. Let's start praying and asking God to give you a vision for making his Kingdom your priority along with a road map (strategy) to fulfil that vision. Having no vision or strategy would leave one with no more than what Wolfgang Simson calls "learn, earn, pay taxes and burn forever". Ask God for both spiritual and material resources, since he already gave them to us when he chose us from before the foundation of the earth (Eph. 1:3-4). Like prophet Habakkuk, be sure to write down the vision and the strategy, then run with them. (Hab. 2:1-3).

God's vision is that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." (Hab. 2:14)

A Jamaat is a place for mutual teaching, encouragement, sharing, accountability, breaking of bread, disciple-making and prayer with the objective of filling the whole earth with 'Isa's glory; however, religious clerics have reduced it to a human form of mammon and musical idolatry that they call worship. Heb. 10:24,25

Before you take the plunge, remember there is a cost to discipleship: "Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, I will still be joyful and glad, because the LORD God is my Saviour" (Hab. 3:17-18)

## ECONOMIC DISCIPLE-MAKING

The values of the biblical Kingdom of God regarding money and possessions stand in direct opposition to the consumerist, individualistic, selfish values we see in the world. Modern economies, designed by Ivy

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league-trained experts, are driven by credit demons in a worldly system that creates debt by leveraging 'other people's money' (Pro. 22:26-27; Rom. 13:8). Recent economic collapses show the ultimate folly of this approach. It is possible to save up for needed purchases, and to wait for inheritances, before obtaining houses and wealth (Pro. 19:14). 'Isa followers are not to borrow, though we can only lend expecting nothing in return (Luke 6:35). (Brian Simmons, [www.mentornet.ws/mentornet80.html](http://www.mentornet.ws/mentornet80.html))

The apostle Paul was a model economic disciple-maker who openly testified to the elders of the Ephesian jamaat, *"I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel... You yourselves know that these hands have ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me"* (Acts 20:33-34). Paul actually worked with his hands for his living while he preached. While training at the School of Tyrannous God was doing so many extra-ordinary signs and miracles that some would take Paul's hand towels (Greek *soudaria*) and work aprons (Greek *simikinthia*) that he used in his tent-making business. Paul's preaching, combined with healing and deliverance, was so effective that all Asia (modern Turkey) heard the gospel in two years. Obviously, Paul was preaching while on the job, to his itinerant clients, including shepherds, fishermen and small businessmen, as they waited for their tents to made or repaired, who then went and shared what they had seen and heard.

*Paul, though a working man, made disciples of other working people, on site, to become fishers of men; he was not a theologian educating theologians, in a classroom. He not only healed the sick and delivered the demonized, but he taught them to do the same (Acts 19:8-12).*

House, market, add workplace jamaats cost nothing to operate, as all needed resources are available locally and participants bring food for common meals. Tithing has been much misunderstood and abused by 'Isa jamaats and their leaders. *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be **food** in mine house, and prove me now herewith, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"*

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(Mal. 3:8-11). Tithes were not cash but food, first-fruits, grains, oil, and firstlings of specific kinds of animals.

*Tithe paying is much abused. It was meant for taking the jamaat into the world, but it is mostly used for bringing the world into the jamaat.*

Worship at the OT temple required an offering of food articles and not of cash. ***“You must eat the tithe before the Lord your God... you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, and the Levite who is within your gates; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God...”*** (Deut. 12:17-19). One could not offer cash at the altar even if one came from a long distance (Deut. 14:24-26). One had to go and buy an animal and offer it.

The OT tithe was divided into four parts. Organs and fat, the best parts, were eaten by the Altar at the temple; one leg went to the priest and his family, a third part went to the devotee for his household, and the rest went to the poor, the widows and the orphans. In the NT, we see Paul taking care of his own needs and his disciples needs, giving the rest to the poor (Acts 20:34-35). All the Rabbis in local synagogue had alternative sources of income.

NT apostles replace OT Levites (1Cor. 9:11-14). Apostles carry the good news to wherever al-Masih has not been named, as a kind of mobile temple, altar and priest (2 Cor. 6:16; 1 Pet. 2:5-6, 9; Rom. 15:16). So, too, today, apostolic workers should be allowed to partake of whatever worshippers bring to the altar as a tithe (1 Cor. 9:13).

God set up a system, a long time ago, for the breaking of bread from house to house, to this day. Those who manipulate 'Isa's followers to give tithes in the form of money and goods, have reverted to OT times, for the NT nowhere mentions anything about 'Isa's followers giving tithes. The one time 'Isa mentioned tithing was when he was speaking to fellow Jews who were still under the Mosaic Law, before his death on a cross. (Matt 23:23, Luke 11:42). In the New Testament times, no one was paid a salary for doing evangelism. 'Isa said to go sell your surplus and give to the needy. Paul claimed, *“I have coveted no man's silver or gold... These hands have provided for my own and my colleagues' needs and have*

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*given the extra to the needy.*” However, this does not prevent your receiving a double portion of honor (which does not necessarily mean money) for expounding and expanding the Kingdom. (Mark 11:17; Acts 20:33-35; 1 Cor. 4:12; 1 Tim. 5:17)

God never asked us to “give” tithes; He only asked us to “bring” or “return” back what he gave. Servants were rewarded by kings on his return for what they refunded him. He expects thirty, sixty or 100-fold increase, at least some bank interest. The best way to refund God 100-fold is to open your home as a house of prayer for all nations for apostolic purposes. Our problem is not a lack of resources but our “poverty mentality” which needs to be cast out. (Deut. 8:17-18)

Because many of us came out of a traditional jamaat, we think mistakenly that jamaats require money to operate. However, it is only institutional jamaats and organizations that are money hungry. The NT jamaats had no focus on raising their budget. Of course, they had needs, but their needs were mostly met on site through local resource, sometimes in cash but mostly in kind (Acts 2:41-47; Gal 6:6). In a crisis, they would promise to give from their own funds to help needy believers in a far country. (Acts 11:27-30, Rom. 15:25-28; 1 Cor. 16:1-3; 2 Cor. 8:1-4, 9:1-15; Gal 2:10)

This is why we have to have an emphasis on market and work place ministries that move the jamaats towards greater economic self-sufficiency, to engage in “economic discipleship,” in the spirit of John Wesley who taught his followers, “Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can.” (In A Sermon on Luke 16:9)

*“You might not say in your heart, my power and the might of my hand has gotten me this wealth. For it is the LORD your God who gives you power to get wealth that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day”* (Deut. 8:17, 18)

God does not give us wealth, He gives us power (ability) to go and work hard and get wealth, to fulfil his apostolic agenda which he swore to our forefather Abraham, *“You shall be a blessing to all the nations of the earth.”* Wealth does not fall from heaven; we have to earn it, just like Paul did while working as a full-time apostle. But then, none of it belongs

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to us; the whole thing belongs to God and not just the tithe. If we are fulfilling God's agenda, then we can relax, resting in the Lord, without being stressed about where the money will come from, because He provided for us 2000 years ago (2 Cor. 8:9). However, if we are living by our appetites, then we will have to eat by the sweat of our brow. (Gen. 3:17-19; 12:3; Deut. 8:17-18)

The one thing that differentiates 'Isa's Way from others is its generosity, philanthropy and service. Generosity is not just about money but also time, practical help, sharing life and all that we have. Other religions practice tokenism, whereas in 'Isa's Way, we willingly give even if we have only a little, and we go serve in remote places, even in enemy territory where our service puts us at risk. Wherever there is a need, the Lord's followers will be there. (Gene Davis)

## WHY CHURCH PLANTING?

Can we find a verse in the Bible wherein 'Isa asked us to plant a jamaat or appoint a pastor? 'Isa came preaching the Kingdom, not planting jamaats. 'Isa said, *"Go make disciples", and I will build my jamaat*" (Matt. 28:19, 16:18). Wherever we make disciples, jamaats happen and should happen daily. Believers should be mentored by five-fold ministry gifted apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, not by a pastor alone. These mentors equip them for ministry which should result in daily growth and multiplication of jamaats. Paul never wrote to pastors; he wrote directly to the saints of city-wide jamaats and sometimes even to regional. (Acts 16:5; Eph. 4:11,12)

As a corollary, if we do not make disciples, then multiplication of jamaats does not happen either, as is the case with most unfulfilled 'Isa followers. One hallmark of a mature 'Isa follower is that he or she is sold out for making disciples. (Eph. 3:5-6; Col 1:26-27)

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*Every 'Isa follower who becomes non-productive and fruitless, for whatever reason, is a stigma and a failure of his local jamaat, an incalculable loss to the Kingdom of God.*

What many mistakenly call a church, is a religious building, having a cross on it, where the faithful worship weekly, complete with singing led by a talented worship leader, and with a sermon intoned by a salaried cleric, requiring tithes for supporting its budget, none of which has a biblical basis. There is not even a single verse in the New Testament that requires any of those activities. One pastor of one congregation, the bishop over a diocese, the board elders and deacons, as we know them today, did not exist in NT times.

### **SHOULD WE GO TO JAMAAT OR NOT?**

The principalities and rulers of darkness have taken over our city, and while we merrily drive to our weekly jamaat building, demons are walking our streets. We should be prayer walking with pure, holy hands raised, cleaning up the streets (1Tim. 2:8). We are the Haykal (holy house) of the living God. So how does a Haykal go to another Haykal? (1Cor. 3:16). Just stop *going* to jamaat and start *being* a jamaat! Our primary physical sanctuary (altar) is our daily workplace where we spend most of our time. We are accountable for the souls of our friends, colleagues, workmates and neighbours and also those who stagnate in our jamaats, not going anywhere. Pray for them that God, in His mercy, would set them free.

Our job description is to offer up as a sacrifice, well pleasing to God, repentant souls with a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17), wherever He has placed us, build up our own sanctuary with living stones. That is our primary nuclear jamaat. "The Bride of 'Isa is pure, spotless and without wrinkles. We can plant her in whatever, place, form or structure there is. (1Peter 2:-6; 1Cor. 7:20, 24)

## WHY HOUSE-JAMAATS

The Kingdom has much bigger dimensions than ritual and tradition bound gatherings. It is not limited by building, budget, hierarchy, human wisdom, age, caste, race, gender, denomination and ethnicity. It transcends time, space and matter. Thus, 'Isa's followers can gather wherever they like, whether office, park, or market place. Like the early jamaats, a home remains the most common and convenient place. (Acts 2:46, 20:20; Rom 16:3-5; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col 4:15; Phlm. 1:1,2).

Meeting in a home does not make it a house-jamaat, if it maintains the paraphernalia of a traditional weekly gathering, such as a dominant leader, sermon, endless singing, collection box, order of service and so on. That were only a "gathering in a house", not a house-jamaat. Gathering together in the name of worship and singing the same old songs marks a singing club, not a disciple-making hub.

A true NT jamaat serves as a disciple-making centre wherein new disciples are birthed every time it meets (Acts 2:46-47). A cell gathering, a bible study class, or a prayer cell that gathers regularly at a particular place on particular day, led by a particular person, that does not reproduce or multiply are a barren Bride of al-Masih. His true Bride stretches her tent to the left and to the right, inheriting the Gentiles and filling the earth. (Isa. 54:1-3)

*To study the Bible without built-in DNA of outreach for the lost is a wasteful theological exercise. Bible study should open your eyes to that signs, miracles, healings and new souls being added, that jump out of every page of the NT. It should fill you up with passion, power and vision to take exciting, spiritual voyages that gather in fellow pilgrims throughout the journey.*

It makes common sense, in a hostile environment, with the skyline studded with minarets, not to hold organised, traditional gatherings, which prove wasteful, ineffective, non-productive, and sometimes suicidal. Wisdom would opt for little gatherings of two or three haneef (saints), with a maximum of five including seekers. Such organic Bet

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Salaam (Houses of Peace)" remain biblically based, customizable, effective, productive, simple, flexible, free and kingdom oriented.

A NT model of house-jamaat has a completely different architecture. It is liberating for some whilst alarming for those who have no job skills and have made their jamaat into their financial support base. In a NT-style jamaat, participants do not stare at the back of other's heads; rather they interact face to face (1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 5:19-20; Col. 3:16; Heb. 10:24-25). Rather than a designated leader, it has a shared leadership. Rather than being a one man show, it practices participation and production based on everyone sharing both spiritual and material gifts including food (breaking bread). It is home based and relational. *"He who does the will of the Father is my mother, brother and sister"* (Mark 3:31-35). Here we do not require sacred buildings, academic tags, equipment or other financial props. We can freely invite our friends, neighbours and colleagues who can freely interact with us and with each other.

They will know you are my disciples by your love for one another (John 13:34,35), not by your religion, title, country, culture, language, intelligence, education, or anything other label, only by your love one for another. (Kat Huff)

The need of all men, whether Christian, Muslim, Roman Catholic, Pagan or any "brand" is to hear and believe the Good News about 'Isa al-Masih, the Son of the Living God. In 'Isa alone can we find salvation, sanctification and security. Keep on preaching the message of the cross of Al-Masih until 'Isa comes... (Ferdinand Resurrección Consebido )

Isa went to a *Yahudi* (Jewish) jamaat (synagogue) in Nazarath and read two messianic *ayats* (verses) from the Book of Isaiah, sat down and delivered a one line sermon: *"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing"*, resulting in a huge turmoil in the jamaat. Luke 4:18-21

"The world makes way for the man who knows where he is going". (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

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### WOMEN PROPHETS

We do not “go to jamaat” to worship by just singing, rather we worship God by offering the lost as a sacrifice which results in numerical growth and multiplication. Jamaat is a prophetic gathering where God speaks to everyone, including women and children. As disciples mature, they will all go plant their own gatherings. Minimizing and marginalizing women, youth and even children, because of some inherited, male-dominated, jamaat tradition based on distorted interpretations of Paul’s teachings, would make us a dysfunctional household of God. 1 Corinthians 14:34-38 passage stands as a taunt to hard-core traditionalists who were trying to impose Jewish legalism upon the house-jamaats in contradiction to Paul’s teaching about participatory jamaats in the preceding and following verses.

The instruction against women teaching men found in 1 Timothy 2:11-14, was a special and temporary situation, as the jamaats at Ephesus were having a serious problem with a Gnostic heresy (*gnosis*=knowledge) that held that Hawa (Eve) brought godly knowledge through ignorant widows and their old wives’ tales. So Paul had instructed Timothy to stay back in Ephesus to prevent such women teaching in the jamaats, until he had sorted things out. Thus, this rule did not apply to women like Priscilla who had eighteen month’s training under Paul and asked to stay in Ephesus with her husband (Acts 18:11). There is legend that she and he died there as martyrs. Now, the Epistle does not target women alone but is even harder on men teachers, including Hymenaeus and Alexander whom Paul delivered over to Satan till they might learn not to blaspheme (1 Tim. 1:3-7, 20; 5:13).

The OT had not silenced women, and 'Isa constantly upgraded them, even though most women were uneducated, in those days. Paul, a scholar of the Torah and an apostle of 'Isa, would contradict neither the Scripture nor his Lord. Paul commended the many women who co-laboured with him in the Good News, since one can hardly labour in the Good News without preaching or teaching the Good News. Likewise, Peter, on the day of Pentecost, while women were proclaiming the mighty works of God in public, proclaimed their utterances to be in

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fulfilment of Joel's prediction: "*Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.*" Today, women are no longer tied to home and hearth, but are educated, contribute to family finances, and make decisions. Thus, there is no biblical reason for which women cannot participate fully in the life and outreach task of their jamaats. (Acts 2:17-18; Eph. 2:19)

NT jamaats normally have several : "When you gather ... *let two or three prophets speak, and the rest should judge.*" (1 Cor. 14:29-32), and since women can be prophets (like Philip's four daughters, Acts 21:8-9), there is no biblical reason for which women cannot speak in jamaats. What is more, they can apply their minds, ask questions and express their opinion on any of the teachings given by men or other women in the house-jamaats.

If we can accept Junia as a notable women apostle (Rom. 16:7); Philip's daughters as prophetesses (Acts 21:8-9); a Samaritan woman and Mary Magdalene as evangelists (John 4:39-42, 20:15-18), Priscilla as a teacher (Acts 18:26); Apphia, Lydia, and Nympha as house-jamaat facilitators (Acts 16:15, Col 4:15, Phlm 1:1-2), Phoebe as a deacon (Rom. 16:1), Joanna and Susanna as 'Isa's financiers, (Luke 8:3) and Dorcus as a social worker (Acts 9:36), then we should have no problem with women ministering in their jamaats or to non-believers.

In NT times, women played important roles in their jamaats; they prayed, prophesied, taught, encouraged, hosted, and even financially supported their jamaats. This was a very significant change from the Jewish tradition that held a women's testimony to be worthless. Why go back and wallow in that gender-bias ditch? In any case, gender equity is not an issue in a small house-jamaat, nor will it be an issue in heaven where your current wife will no longer be your wife but a fellow angel of equal status. Already today, some women apostles are making disciples, baptizing and seeing tenth-generation multipliers in their ministries. (1 Cor. 12:7, 27-28; 14:3, 29-32; Heb. 10:24-25; Col. 3:16; Matt. 22:30)

## EVERY BELIEVER BEAR GOD'S IMAGE

The New Testament model of house-jamaats poses a serious threat to religion, being the best and the quickest means for reaching to the ends of planet earth.

*“But when everyone is participating, and some unbelievers or seekers come in, they will be convicted of their sin by what they hear. The secrets of their hearts are disclosed, and so, falling on their face, they will worship God and declare that God is really among you. When you gather, everyone has a psalm, teaching, revelation, tongue, or interpretation. Everything must be done for edification” (1Cor. 14:24-26).*

Because 'Isa came to seek and to save the lost, the overarching function of an organic house-jamaat is to prove seeker friendly. To be a true follower of 'Isa, every believer must intentionally go find seekers who are seeking God in the wrong place, turning their world upside down. Every believer must know that he or she is sent by God with his message, wherever God has placed them (1Cor. 7:16,20). Seekers and the sought must be the primary focus of your jamaat, wherever they happen to gather, be it in a home, neighbourhood, office or the market place. By the end of each meeting, lost sinners must repent and get baptised, and the jamaat offer them up as a living sacrifice by adding them to the jamaat. Sometimes, this may take more than one meeting. The newly baptised are then equipped and sent out to reach their own extended household or social circle of influence (oikos). A healthy disciple is one who reproduces many more healthy disciples, and a successful jamaat (Bride) is one that births many more jamaats (Brides) (Acts 17:6).

My Father is glorified, when you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples (John 15:8).

“The jamaats were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily” (Acts 16:5).

“They... breaking bread from house to house, did eat their food with gladness and singleness of heart... And the Lord added new believers to the gathering daily” (Acts 2:46-47).

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On the day of the dedication of the Jerusalem temple, God told King Suleiman in a vision, *“This house shall be called a house of qorban (sacrifice)”* (2 Chron. 7:12).

It must never be forgotten that the jamaat is primarily an altar for continuously offering up as a living sacrifice, Gentiles, that is, repentant sinners with broken and contrite hearts. This is true worship. Replacing such worship with professional music, entertainment and rhetoric makes a mockery of God’s heart. In many places, worship amounts to musical idolatry, as it happened with Israel in the wilderness. (Rom 15:16; 1 Peter 2:5-6; Ps 51:17; Mal. 1:11; Isa. 60:7)

There remains a big trust gap between the stated interests of traditional jamaats and their engagement with the world. A jamaat building is often like a mouse trap: getting in is easy but getting out is a challenge. The jamaat is to be more like a bridge than like a parking lot. Way too many people get stuck in a parking lot and never cross the bridge. Such jamaats remain stationary and non-performing, whereas the Kingdom of God is an ever expanding reality. The tiny mustard seed must grow into a herb tree where the fowl of the air come find rest in its branches. A little leaven must permeate the whole dough. The seed (that is you and I) must multiply and bring forth a thirty, a sixty and even a hundredfold harvest.

God has promised, *“A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in its time”* (Isa. 60:22).

Every believer bears the image of God. Not reflecting his image during the week by only decorating the bench in a meeting hall once a week is a mega disaster with unimaginable consequences. This untapped potential resource must be harnessed with the urgency it deserves.

'Isa has said, “I have been sent to preach the kingdom to every city”. This he did along with healing and delivering all kinds of people having diverse kinds of diseases. (Luke 4:40-43; Mark 1:38)

*God was not excited when humans reached the moon, but his angels go into ecstasy whenever a lost soul comes back home.*

## QUALITY AND QUANTITY

Many leaders with a negative mind-set do not believe in numbers and some of them are even allergic to statistics. Those sceptics are a real drag on the soul of the Lord. They may not have the numbers, simply because they may not be truly connected with 'Isa who promised,

*“He who abides with me, and I in him, the same brings forth abundant fruit”* (John 15:5).

Delayed fruit bearing is no longer the paradigm. Despised Samaritan woman who got connected to 'Isa started fruiting within the hour.

*“You say it is four months to the harvest, but I say the harvest is ready now”* (John 4:35).

*“I have chosen you to bring forth lasting fruit”* (John 15:16).

*“My Father is glorified when you bring forth abundant fruit, and then you shall be my disciples”* (John 15:8).

Finally, *“A man shall be known by his fruit”* (Matt. 7:16, 20). Fruitfulness is guaranteed for those connected with 'Isa,.

### **A Prayer for Fruitfulness**

Lord, we pray that there will be no barren believers, that everyone will be loaded with fruit. Isa. 54:1-3

Lord, we know that you have chosen us and ordained us to bring lasting fruit. John 15:16

Lord, let your name is glorified by your disciples making abundant disciples. John 15:8

Lord, we know that those who abide in you are guaranteed fruitfulness. As soon as the Samaritan woman got connected with you, she started fruiting within an hour. John 15:5

Lord, we know that, just like a tree, our judgement depends on our fruitfulness. Matt. 7:16, 20

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When we tell a Doubting Thomas about Church Planting Movements (JPMs) going on in China, India or elsewhere, he simply dismisses it as something shallow or, in any case according to him, not possible in the situation he works in. However, we know that there were no known JPMs anywhere in the world, just a decade back. But now, they are sprouting up everywhere, both in the most restricted and hostile countries and even in free and open countries, simply because somebody there took the first step of faith. To insist that a JPM “could not happen here” would minimize the God of the impossible. A prerequisite to believing in such a God is that we set *faith stretching goals*.

Interestingly, a few years back JPM reports were considered exaggerated, whereas now most inquiries discover the inverse, for actual numbers are being under reported! Once the Spirit takes over, the wind blows where it wants but no one knows where it comes from or where it goes. Doubting-Thomas investigators are finding out that only the tip of the iceberg is being reported. Still, to keep statistics in perspective, in a country like India with a population of over a billion, it would require ten million baptisms to shift the religious demographics by just one percent.

To be sure the jamaat in Jerusalem was birthed as a JPM which went viral rapidly and became a global JPM within the life-time of the first disciples. The Scripture is full of numbers on how many went to Egypt (72), how many crossed the Red Sea (600,000) and how many crossed the Jordan (40,000), how many martyrs (144,000) will be in heaven. The gathering started with 3000 families being baptized on the Day of Pentecost, then another 5,000 were added soon after, until Jerusalem had *myriads* (Greek for tens of thousands). This is why God put the Book of Numbers in the Bible. The world will end up with multitudes worshipping God (Rev. 7:9, 10). Even the devil has a number (666).

*Every city should set up world-class centres for providing cutting edge strategic learning, innovation and resource development to accelerate turning of lay people into Christ-centred labourers. It should provide information, solutions and services to the jamaats for enabling, enthusing and empowering ordinary believers with spiritual, interpersonal, financial and entrepreneurial skills for fulfilling 'Isa's Supreme Order.*

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### MINI OR MEGA CHURCH

The Lord is a mathematician. He fed 5,000 with two fish and five loaves, collecting 12 baskets of left-overs. We know those numbers, because he had made them sit in rows of 50s and 100s. On another occasion, it was not “around” or “approximately” 150 or 160 fish but exactly 153 fish that were caught. When he said that wherever two or three are gathered in his name, and any two of them can ask for anything, he means just that. When we become four, we can multiply by dividing. What should be the size of a mega jamaat? God said to Abraham, if you can show me ten righteous persons, I will not destroy the city. How does having ten save a city? Because they go two by two, as recorded in Luke 10 (see below), praying, “Lord, please add just one more believer today.” In these days of security consciousness, it is important to obey this model, because two or three can gather without attracting undue attention. 'Isa's minimal-number method is not only the best security against persecution, but also the most productive. (Matt. 18:18-20; John 21:11; Gen. 18:32)

The practice of being only two or three concept was not started by 'Isa; it existed in the OT when God told Moses that one witness is not enough to convict a man of wrong doing. The matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. When we are going to share the Good News with someone, make a disciple of him by bring him to repentance, it is important to remember this principle (Deut. 19:15).

*Before we can dismantle the kingdom of the devil, we may have to dismantle our own mind-set, worldview and even methods. (Rom. 12:1-2)*

*God does not care about our academic tags, ethnicity, gender or social status, as long as we get the job done, which is to seek and to save the lost, thereby expanding his Kingdom.*

*So the jamaats were strengthened in the faith, and increased in numbers daily (Acts 16:5).*

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### **BEST PRACTICES (LUKE 10)**

The blueprint for precipitating a JPM is to follow 'Isa's method, which is to go out two by two, taking no extra baggage, greeting no one on the way, praying to the Lord of the harvest for labourers, finding persons of peace, eating, meeting and gossiping the Good News, praying for healing of the sick, and planting the kingdom. Even if they disbelieve, we should proclaim as we leave, "The Kingdom of God is near". One prerequisite is to greet the host homes with "Peace be upon you" which in Arabic language is "*Salaam Alei kum*", the greeting instituted by 'Isa, 632 years before Islam started. (Luke 10:5; 1-11)

The objective is not just to plant one jamaat and to stay put, but to viralize jamaats with healthy DNA that keeps growing at its edges, while aiming to reach to the ends of the earth. Success, whether in business, in fruit-bearing, in fishing for men, in reaching nations, tongues and tribes, in making disciples, in baptisms, or even in our salary, is always measured in numbers. Our harvest must be 30, 60, even a 100-fold. However we are not to do\_so alone; we may sow the seed and others may water and manure, yet together we must reap the harvest. (Acts 2:41, 4:4; 21:20)

### **WORST PRACTICES TRADITIONS**

Entry into heaven is not through our doing works of the law (traditions, rituals or even numbers), but by grace through faith, which is a free gift of God. 'Isa never spoke against the Law of Moses; if anything, he upheld it. He only rejected the ceremonial laws which had been added by the Jewish leaders, such as washing of hands in a particular way, not healing the sick of a Sabbath, especially to care for parents in their old age, and so on. Those regulations dealt with external behaviour rather than with internal piety. Many Jews rated the Traditions of the Elders, enshrined in their holy book, the *Talmud* (Jewish hadith), higher than the prophets or even the Torah (Mosaic Law) itself. The *Talmud* remains a troublesome document that even contains satanic verses written against

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'Isa, Mary and the Gentiles, that make *Sharia* appear humane. The Pharisees were constantly shadowing 'Isa, trying to fault him on the Traditions of the Elders, a set of man-made laws that 'Isa out rightly rejected (Matt. 15:1-9).

Our focus should be kept on transformation of humans and not on human traditions or numbers, because counterfeit traditions and falsified growth statistics can destroy any movement. Remember, our reward depends very much on our good works, and there is no blessing greater than that of becoming a blessing to the nations. (Matt. 15:1-20; Eph. 2:8-10; Rev. 22:12; Gen. 12:3)

### **WHY ARE JPM'S HAPPENING NOW?**

God is fulfilling the promise that he made, that in the last days, he would pour out his spirit on all flesh, on young and old, men and women (Acts 2:17-18)

The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington have precipitated an avalanche of prayer all over the world in behalf of Muslims. Prayer summits, prayer concerts, all night prayers, praying for the nations, prayer walking and targeted prayers, these are breaking down thousands of years of occult strongholds, sorcery, witchcraft, voodooism, fetishism, Shamanism, divination, jinxes, hexes, curses and so on.

As a result Muslims are seeing dreams and visions, experiencing miracles and mighty deeds.

Contextualized radio, television, DVDs, CDs, and literature are saturating the Muslim world.

Open dialogue in the Internet is opening the eyes of many seekers to the truth.

JPM-oriented drivers, dedicated resource agencies, and well-versed missionary coaches are investing themselves in this ministry.

Culture-specific training is sending well-equipped workers who can

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confidently handle Muslim objections to the Good News.

JPM motors, that is, indigenous leaders are setting up grassroots-level mentoring and discipleship chains. 2 Tim. 2:2

Muslims themselves are confounded by belonging to a religion labelled terrorist .

Translation of the Quran into common languages allows ordinary Muslims no longer to be dependent on an *imam* for interpretation. They can judge for themselves truth and untruth.

## HINDRANCES TO JMP'S

Ignorance about the form and function of the Injil (NT) model of house -jamaats, thus not being in sync with God's heart beat for the lost, causes myopic vision, goofy goals and foggy finish lines.

Lack of equipping and empowerment of market and workplace ministers and economic disciples to fulfil the Supreme Order "*to go make disciples of all nations, baptising, equipping and sending them to the ends of the earth*", greatly stalling the 'Isa Way's reaching the world. Every believer should be infected with the DNA of 'Isa's Supreme Order which would change them from nobodies into somebodies.

Gross ignorance about other religions and cultures, because jamaats hold no coaching sessions, either evenings or weekends, for those who are interested in reaching other ethnic groups.

Theological institutions train "aquarium keepers" instead of "fishers of men." They teach a lot of abstract theology but little concrete missiology, or, at best, they teach comparative religion as token to 'Isa's Supreme Order. Most do not coach on site, failing to handle confidently aggressive Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, Atheistic, evolutionary and naturalistic objections.

Jamaats focus inwardly upon their structures and programs, rather than on engaging the world, while the outreach organisations get mired

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down in contextualizing their methods and strategy, rather than releasing their personnel by imparting disciple-making skills.

Almost all literature, CDs and DVDs produced by 'Isa followers for 'Isa followers are of little use for those who follow other faiths. Most materials made in follow fruitless, cognitive, intellectual approaches. Many traditional 'Isa followers disbelieve in the role of prophecy, revelations, dreams, visions, direct visitation from God, or they despise witnessing, storytelling, healing, miracles and deliverance and the supernatural, which consistently remain the biblical motors of growth and multiplication. Measuring success by bodies, buildings and budgets, rather than by numbers of disciples made, baptised and sent out as market and work place ministers. (1Cor. 2:4; 1Thess. 1:5)

Most media ministries focus on messages that make new converts but that do not mature them into disciples. Being followers of al-Masih is not enough; we must take responsibility for graduating others into fishers of men who will then carry the Good News around the globe.

Baptism and the breaking of bread from house to house, the two sacraments ordained by the Lord for the *priesthood of all believers*, have often been high-jacked by seminary-certified clergy. Delaying baptisms unnecessarily, and failure to empower the “academically unqualified” for ministry, greatly hinder exponential growth.

Saints seated on benches in jamaats are not being equipped for ministry in the market place. Crippling restrictions on women, youth and others defies both biblical teaching and common sense. Fact is, equipping that targets of women, youth and children, who can go to places where adult males cannot, upgrades them into super evangelists who can birth JPMs in hostile countries. God chooses, *ordains and appoints* “all flesh” which includes young and old, males and females, boys and girls who bring forth lasting fruit. (John 15:16; Acts 2:17-18)

While the young have become “Internauts” speaking a different lingo, and some oldsters surf websites, traditionalist jamaats gather sit incarcerated inside the four walls of an unbiblical meeting hall and speaking in old religious accents. The Internet is full of 'Isa followers blogging with 'Isa followers, whilst very few are debating, dialoguing and

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disputing with the lost. Every Spirit-filled 'Isa follower worth his laptop or cell phone should be engaging the world from the power of his keypad.

All these hindrances can be rectified within the context of highly interactive house-jamaats. *“Let him that is taught in the word communicate to him that teaches in all good things”* (Gal. 6:6). The ‘taught’ must communicate freely with the teacher through reason, debate, dialogue and even dispute, to mature. Acts 17:2,11,17; 18:4

*The greatness of a communicator is not just in communicating a great message, but in transforming listeners into accurate communicators of his message. Less than that would be mere transmission, with the message ending up in a dust bin.*

Whilst many jamaats and outreach initiatives facilitate Training for Trainers (T4T), the actual, grassroots-level, global, Kingdom-planting movement is being driven by first-generation believers, most of whom remain illiterate or semi-literate, oral communicators. Retention of the content of academic lectures proves poor in all communities and dismal amongst oral communicators who cannot write down notes to revise later on. Hence, teaching must include a lot of repetition and often cross checked to see that recipients can confidentially repeat the message.

Curtis Sergeant’s JPM methodology follows the MAWL training cycle (Model, Assist, Watch, Leave) as the basis of your apostolic presence. MAWL is likened to teaching a child to ride a bicycle. The last two steps prove particularly difficult for foreigners, yet these steps remain crucial for sustained multiplication.

- 1) A teacher himself provides the child with a model by riding the bicycle,
- 2) The teacher assists the child by holding the bicycle while the child operates it,
- 3) The teacher watches while the child rides the bicycle by himself,
- 4) Finally, the teacher leaves the child to ride the bicycle on his own.

*Leadership is all about unleashing creativity, gifts, talents and energy within others. It is not only the giving of motivational talks but the teaching of skills and of a step-by-step process. It is as much about quality and productivity as it is about imparting Kingdom values.*

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The bulk of the JPMs are driven by grassroots, oral communicators who are unpaid volunteers. Never-the-less, *organizations* can provide resources so that *organisms* can finish their task. This synergy of organisations and organisms is rapidly changing the religious and spiritual demographics of many nations. (Isa 60:16; 66:11-12)

### **BEHAVIOURAL TRAITS OF JPM DRIVERS AND MOTORS**

JPM watchers have made several observations about those who lead effective JPMs.

#### ***Essential traits*** (Bill Smith)

1. They reveal a high level of energy, and they do not require “time off”.
2. They focus narrowly on activities that lead to more new believers, more new trainers and more new gatherings.
3. Kingdom-shaped prayer is their main ministry activity and of their trainees.
4. They witness to most of those whom they meet, as do their trainees.
5. They assume responsibility for the movement and exercise authority within it.
6. They conduct trainings almost daily and weekly, insisting that new believers start witnessing and become fruitful immediately.
7. They provide simple materials suitable to new believers and jamaats.

#### ***Incidental traits*** (Galen Currah)

8. They have a vision for bringing benefit to whole populations, and for transforming society.
9. They filter others’ teaching and act on new insights that fit their vision.
10. They publicly acknowledge their workers’ and associates’ successes and contributions.
11. They pursue their vision, whether or not they receive outside help.
12. They articulate their vision often, continually plan expansion, train workers in their methods, and evaluate outcomes often.

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13. They invest time in a small number of trainees who do the same with others, in turn, continually bringing on new 'generations' of trainers.

14. They operate primarily by the gifts they have from the Spirit and urge others to do likewise.

The Lord is anxiously waiting to glorify the billion sons and daughters of Nebaioth and Kedar, the two older sons of Ishmael to be offered up as a living sacrifice on his holy altar. (Hazrat Mohammed is a direct descendent of Kedar)

*The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian [modern day Saudi Arabia] and Ephah; all they from Sheba [entire Middle East] shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall show forth the praises of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory. (Isa. 60:6-7)*

## YOU ARE THE TRIBE OF ISSACHAR

Saul (dictatorship in the Middle East) is dead and the Benjamites (secularists) have other ideas about the successor to their thrones. Messianic Muslims are meeting in Hebron (Muslim strongholds) to decide the future. Joshua destroyed the Anakim giants, and many dictator kings in Hebron (Joshua 11:21-22). It is a critical time for the sons of Ishmael. At this point, leaders of the tribe of Issachar (committed MBBs), who understand what is happening, know exactly what to do.

*The children of Issachar, who were men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do... (1 Chron. 12:32).*

The Hebrew word for understanding (*binah*) means "to have insight or to act with prudence". It comes from a root verb that means to dissect and analyse with intelligence and wisdom, even cunning and skill. It is not just an understanding of facts, but a skilful analysis of what something truly means. We must obliterate the cleavage between traditional

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jamaats and house-jamaats, allowing them to create a synergy that results in JPMs among the largest, most unreached peoples in the most restricted countries of the world.

### **COMPLETE CHANGE OF PARADIGM**

Questions we must ask and find answers to:

1. Whatever we are doing, is it designed to grow at the edges and fulfil 'Isa's Supreme Order?
2. What changes do we have to put to go beyond faith-stretching goals?
3. Where will we find the right people with traits such as learnability, passion and competence, who want to take ownership of their domain regardless of the cost? Shall we look within or elsewhere?
4. What is the skills set required to achieve those objectives? Where can we find accomplished mentors? Where shall we train?
5. What measuring and monitoring practices will show how well our goals are being achieved?
6. Where will we find the resources to do it? In the harvest field or with start-up money from elsewhere?

In reality, the changes required to shift from being a traditional jamaat into an apostolic one will prove as radical as was the change from the Old Testament to the New. Let the fruitless fig tree die. The Groom has been waiting to get married for the past 2000 years. The banquet is ready. All he wants is for his Bride to be ready, so that he can come quickly. Whilst this all comes by grace through faith, our faith must move us to loving obedience, in order to complete the task that 'Isa initiated.

## HOUSE-JAMAAT NETWORK (HJN) CATALYSTS

To facilitate a hypersonic JPM, you have to leverage the unstoppable power of a decentralised system. Whilst you must mobilize, mentor, monitor, and measure, you must not command or control, lest you kill the momentum. Hand over ownership of the harvest to the workers, which will only motivate them to work harder. We are God's greatest resource and our role is to catalyse and to turbo-charge others, but never to control. Keep your connections relational, intentional, missional and temporal, like those between parents and their grown up children.

Planting house-jamaat networks (HCNs) remains a key to birthing JPMs. Adding on new workers and existing networks enlarges the net and catches more fish. The larger and tighter the network, the greater the harvest, preventing the fish from slipping through the holes in the net. Additionally, the interlinking of house-jamaats results in cross-pollination, cohesiveness, collaboration, and sharing of both physical and spiritual resources, breaking denominational barriers, as well as in crafting city-wide, regional and even national strategies and channels, increasing synergy for finishing the task of 'Isa's Supreme Order. All early NT jamaats, whether a single jamaat, like the one in Lydia's home at Thyatira, or hundreds of house-jamaats as in Jerusalem, were all named after their city or region, such as those in Judaea, Samaria, Galilee, Galatia and Asia (Acts 9:31; 16:1, 16, 19).

To involve only pastors, overseers, and elders in planning would lead to elitism and hierarchies. House-jamaat planting must remain a people's movement. However, you should periodically call elder together, as Paul did at Miletus, to keep them focused on the task ahead (Acts 20:17-38). This is the prime time for reporting (Acts 14:27), encouraging (Acts 15:4), resting in the Lord, edification and comfort (Acts 9:31). Do not waste resources on non-performers, but recognize both the gifts and limits of each person. Lord 'Isa had twelve primary disciples, yet he invested the most in Petrus, Yahyah (John) and Yakob (James), an inner circle of just three. Sometimes, we would be wise to cut our losses, shut shop and start someplace else.

## KINGDOM PLANTING

*Form a core group of co-workers like Paul and invest yourself in those who change the religious demographics. This is the key to starting JPMs.*

There are many seated on benches in jamaat meeting halls who have many of these qualities, but they are sitting in the wrong place doing the wrong things. Our task is not to marinate and massage the egos of the same attenders, week after week, but to equip them to set up a low-profile yet highly effective, productive discipleship chains that reach to the ends of the earth. Go under the line of sight, like the ants that eat up the carpet before anyone knows what is happening. If there ever was a time for planters of single congregations, it is over, and the time for JPM planters and HJN catalysts is here, those who keep the kingdom growing at the fringes is here. Who knows why God has brought us to a place like this and at a time like this? One thing is for sure: we must lovingly show to the billion sons and daughters of Ishmael and others on the planet earth, 'Isa al-Masih, the divine roadmap leading them to become the sons and daughters of a loving, heavenly Father. *"I am the way, the truth and life; no one comes to the Father except through me"* (Est. 4:14; John 14:6).

Allah has revealed ninety nine names to the faithful,  
But the one name, the one hundredth name,  
He has revealed it only to the camel;  
And the camel, he is not talking. (Proverb quoted by Kevin Greeson)

Now is the time for the camels ('Isa followers) to reveal the Name above all names, the name of 'Isa al-Masih ibn Allahu whom Muslims desperately need to know. (Acts 4:12; Phil. 2:9-11)

*"In that day the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance."* (Isa. 19:25). *"The LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one"* (Zech. 14:9).

Once again, God is dramatically shaking the Muslim world, because the Kingdom of God is about to come among the sons and daughters of Ishmael, leading to a stunning climax. Are you ready?

wa-Salaam, Shalom, Shanti and Peace.



‘Dr. Victor Choudhrie’s latest book “Kingdom Planting: Leveraging JPMs Among Neighbours” is an simple, strategic, scriptural approach to impacting people with the great news of Jesus Christ. His special emphasis is on reaching our Buddhist, Hindu, and Muslim friends, neighbours, and workmates. In this highly readable work, Victor challenges all of us to shift our mind-set from building-centred, pastor-led, and money-hungry churches to catalysing networks and movements of home-based, participatory, inexpensive, reproducing, and all-hands-on-deck discipleship hubs that can impact our neighbourhoods, villages, cities, and nations. A fascinating read!’ – Rad Zdero, author of *The Global House Church Movement* and *Letters to the House Church Movement*

‘This a powerful and much needed word for the church today. ‘Thank you for allowing our Lord to continue to work in and through your life to the nations of the world.’ — Dan Hubbell, Church Restoration

Dr. Victor Choudhrie has been incredibly successful in church planting and equipping others to imitate him.

Through his “hands on” personal experience he has been able put his finger on many of the traditions that have hindered the church from completing the Great Commission.

Nevertheless, he is more than simply a critic of the present church system.

His ministry is prophetic, in that he is revealing the very heart of God and what He desires to do in these end times.

However, it is also reveals apostolic wisdom in that it lays down the practical “how to” solutions which are in such short supply these days.

Yet with all this insight and “ministry success”, he remains a very humble man. — Stuart Gramenz, Spirit Led Network, Inc. Australia