

Snippets From KeyCom

June 2025

From Death To Life

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As I write this, bombs have stopped falling on Iran and Iran has ceased firing missiles toward Israel. We can only pray that the destruction of Iran's enrichment facilities will lead to a permanent end to the hostilities and greater stability throughout the entire region.

It's understandable why Israel felt compelled to take action. Ever since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the Iranian regime has consistently vowed to destroy Israel. It has repeatedly tried to do so through its proxies. If it is true that Iran was only a few weeks, if not days, away from assembling a nuclear weapon, it would have been foolish for Israel not to believe that Iran would try once again to follow through on its expressed intent.

Whatever the facts are about Iran's nuclear program, the real question is why the regime is so bent upon destruction. Why have they impoverished their own people to pursue their vendetta against Israel? Why have they spent untold billions on indoctrinating and arming groups like Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthis to make unremitting war on Israel and the West? If they had spent a fraction of those sums in development they could have turned places like Lebanon and Gaza into prosperous paradises. They could have dramatically raised the standard of living of their own people. The Shah, whom they overthrew, was well on the way to doing it. Instead, they have victimized their people to fund their feud against the so-called 'Zionists.' They have exploited the discontent of others by fixing the blame for their problems on Israel.

A Muslim critic asks the pertinent question: "Why do other people love life, while we love death and violence, slaughter and suicide, and call it heroism and martyrdom?" (Al-Akhdar as quoted by Ibn Warraq in his book, *Why the West Is Best*, p. 161)

My answer to Al-Akhdar's questions is that the love of death and violence is baked into Islamic culture. Can one look at history or the current state of the world and draw any other conclusion? Influences from the outside have at times modified this bent toward death and violence, but it is always present.

In pondering this love of death and violence in Islam, I couldn't help but contrast it to the message of Christ. Right now we're in the process of producing programs on the Gospel of John. Life and how to obtain it is one of the major themes of John. Here are just a few of many verses (from the NIV translation):

John 1:4, "In him was life, and that life was the light of men."

John 3:36, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

John 4:14, "...whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 5:24, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

John 6:40, "For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 11:25, "...I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;"

John 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 20:31, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

We can thank God that many in the country of Iran are starting to understand the source of life. Back in the 'Snippet' of April of 2017, I mentioned an organization which had already distributed close to a half-million Bibles in Iran – mostly on micro-SD cards. At the time that was approximately one Bible for every 160 people. Since then, I'm sure that the number of Bibles smuggled into Iran is far higher. In addition, Iranians have been able to hear Gospel broadcasts and access Christian messages on the Internet. All this exposure has had an effect. I hear consistent reports that, in spite of government crackdowns and the persecution of Christians, there is a huge movement in Iran away from Islam toward Christ. We can hope and pray that the rule of the Ayatollahs will soon end and Iran will become an agent of peace instead of death and destruction.

It's not just Iran which needs to hear a message of life. Other Muslim countries need to hear it as well. Thank you for helping us proclaim the Gospel in the Urdu language to countries such as Pakistan. Because of you, many are hearing about the One who has destroyed death (2 Timothy 1:10). We couldn't do it without you. Thank you for your concern for those still trapped in death.

Thanks, too, to those in the last few months who gave gifts in memory of loved ones. Kathy Reynolds gave in memory of Craig Reynolds, Bob Lentz gave in memory of Lee Turner, and Carol Collman gave to commemorate Shawn Whitman.

Yours in the Name of of Him who grants us life,



Jonathan Turner
Key Communications
PO Box 13620, Portland, OR 97213
(503) 233-7680