

Establishing prayer networks to reach muslims.

My intro, then mahabba powerpoint presentation and short animation.

In uk we have crib, in usa we have comma, then acri, cmm...and cnmm

- There are more and more networks of specialists
- The challenge for us all is to break the specialist-lay barrier
- **Normally very few ordinary christians are being mobilized**
- In europe we have over 20 networks reaching muslims
- But we have such a blockage of fear and unbelief in the churches
- Recently had the vision 5:9 conference to mobilize grass roots!
- But it has to be both in local churches as well as using cpm/dmm
- Gal 2:8 we must develop a culture of honouring each other
- However god is not sentimental....e,g look at china in 1949
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Isaiah 45:2-3: god is breaking down the iron gates of islam

- Muslim people are different from the spirit of islam
- We are dealing with two separate issues here
- One are precious treasures, the other systems of darkness
- We must....“face the facts but not fuel the fear”
- **Fear is the greatest hindrance to reaching muslims**
- **Second : pastors who think it's the domain of specialists**

Love the people...bind the spirit.....

- My background: bonnke campaigns / china btj movement
- Mombasa to malaysia – **unity and prayer lead to faith and love**
- Remember love the people...bind the spirit.....
- Only prayer, love and humility lead to open doors...
- Story of watford: reconciliation statement/ then 9/11 flowers
- Watford: language learning, childrens clubs, healing room
- Find a way to make them feel loved and valued

Major challenge.... Hearts and minds of the church

- Is 59: god's hand is blocked by our fear and unbelief
- Misconceptions and fear stops us inviting them into our homes.
- Malaysia : “ what they fear will come upon them”
- Faith works through love
- My bible says...love never fails... **Hence “mahabba”**
- Love never fails...this is our ultimate weapon
- Most converts through visions, miracles or love

We have to come to faith and love through prayer

- National prayer networks will mobilize the grass roots
- Ps 2: ask of me and i will give you every people group
- It's time to devote ourselves to prayer...
- Islam is a spirit...no point evangelizing without prayer warfare!
- For god to remove fear and unbelief and fill us with love
- Ordinary christians loving these treasures in darkness

What can national networks facilitate?

- A rapid increase of united grass roots prayer for muslims
- A change of the national mindset concerning muslims
- Mobilization of ordinary christians resourced by specialists
- A new mission awareness amongst youth and students
- The cooperation of all agencies in a new missions movement
- A global learning community around specific people groups
- A platform for sharing resources, ideas and stories

Eph 3:14-21: *for this reason i kneel before the father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his spirit in your inner being, so that christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And i pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of god. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in christ jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Eph 6:10: *finally, be strong in the lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ put on the full armor of god, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Most important lesson: we don't fight people! People are never our enemy!*

- Be a lamb to people...and a lion to the devil!
- We fight spiritual forces at every level...personal to territorial
- This is why we need protection
- But don't single out islam, and demonize it
- Religious spirits of deception, fear and control operate with us too!
- All religion stinks! There's as much demonic in christianity!

This is a spiritual battle: don't try to be clever and win an argument

- Academics, theology, dialogue, apologetics, polemics are great...
- But that is not where the battle is!
- We have to refuse to be intimidated by the devil
- Having done everything paul has mentioned...
- We can stand and go in the opposite spirit...that's warfare!

Too many casualties: particularly reaching out to muslims

- It's a spiritual battle – it's a prayer battle!
- We need the armour of god
- Seen people taken out by intimidation ...and sexual uncleanness
- Eph 6:18: and pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the lord's people.¹⁹ pray also for me, that whenever i speak, words may be given me so that i will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which i am an ambassador in chains. Pray that i may declare it fearlessly, as i should.

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the second lesson: our greatest battle will be against fear and unbelief

- Prayer is not enough: the issue is faith!
- Not saving faith... i mean kingdom faith
- Knowing how to hear the word, come to faith
- Then you are shielded, but also armed and effective
- Too many are locked up in fear and unbelief
- Luke 18: 7-8 and will not god bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the son of man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Let me talk about prayer- of faith: luke 11: there are four levels of prayer

- A. 2-4 praying as a child- intimacy
- B. 5-13 praying as a covenant friend - intercession
- C. 14-28 praying as a kingdom warrior - indignation
- D. 29-32 praying as a son and heir – inheritance

Against islamic revival we need all 4 levels!

- We need intimacy with father: that's what attracts muslims
- We need intercession for precious muslims
- But we need some indignation! But spiritual warfare means total surrender
- And we need faith for our inheritance in the nations...
- Ask of me and i will give you the nations as your inheritance (ps 2)

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No triumphalism! Joshua's war started face down in humility and surrender

- But also don't be passive – ignoring the spiritual fight..

- Jer 51:20 : "you are my war club, my weapon for battle—with you i shatter nations, with you i destroy kingdoms
- God wages war through us: the force of the way we live and carry him!
- “you are god’s battle axe!”
- To release, reconcile, and restore people
- to cleanse and heal the land
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Some bad news and good news!

- Matt 11: the kingdom will suffer violent attacks; holiness gets persecuted
- But we are condemned to victory in christ
- If...we fight the good fight of faith
- No fear! Don’t be deceived or intimidated...or offended!
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Ephesians is written as a training manual for spiritual warfare

- too many jump into eph 6 and ignore 1-5: don’t do it!
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It is a prayer battle: we lose when we fail to engage in the warfare

- Josh 1:3 i will give you every place where you **set your foot (to string your bow)**
- This means “every place you engage in the fight – i will give you”
- It takes time, perseverance, willingness to sacrifice
- 1 pet 4: arm yourself with the willingness to sacrifice and suffer
- Rev 12:11: our victory is through his blood, our testimony, our willingness to sacrifice

How do we pray?

- Not methods!! Just ask god
- But fix your eyes on god ...don’t get mesmerized by islam
- Don’t look at islamic revival as giants!...
- They are grasshoppers against god
- 1. Holy spirit open their spiritual eyes with dreams, visions
 - o 2 cor 4: the devil has blinded them
- 2. Holy spirit convince them of your love.
- 3. Help them receive god’s forgiveness and healing
 - o We remove whatever ground the enemy has
- 4. Help them forgive ..or god will be blocked (matt 6:15)
 - o Confession releases people and reconnects them
- 5. We can loose them from demonic deception (matt 16)
- 6. We proclaim god’s word to them and to the devil: let my people go!

Let’s learn to pray as sons and heirs – inheritance prayer

- On this level we are challenged to pray for nations
- Don’t be intimidated in the fight... God’s in control
- Ps 2: 1-8: you are my son! Ask me for nations!
- Gal 3:26 we are all “sons” of god by faith
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Joshua at jericho is the old testament model

- No triumphalism.... Watch out for what you are saying!
- By default we get negative
- Every city seems tightly shut up...but they are fearful of us!
- Battle starts on our face in humility and dependence
- Its his word, his strategy, his commands
- Jericho hour of history for communism, islam, power-blocs
- Every city is different: have to enquire of god each time
- 1 chron 14: david used different strategies as god led him
- Beware of methods...but learn the lessons and principles

so there are lessons to learn in praying as a kingdom warrior / son

- Its not a game
- Good people can be taken out: like john the baptist/elijah
- Beware! Prepare for war
- Paul first sent on “walk-about” round 5 cities to learn lessons before ephesus
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Get god's order into churches

- Malawi keys: unity, prayer of faith, corporate action

Get on the cross of brokenness

- 1cor 12:15 are we willing to sacrifice and be sacrificed?
- To inherit everything.....it costs everything
- Are we willing to pay the price?
- **When we see muslims as jesus sees them, we are ready to reach out**

Major challenge.... Hearts and minds of the church

- Is 59: god's hand is blocked by our fear and unbelief
- We have so many misconceptions of muslims....
- Fear stops us inviting them into our lives and homes.
- Malaysia : “ what they fear will come upon them”
- Faith works through love....**love never fails**... Hence “mahabba”
- Love never fails...this is our ultimate weapon
- Most converts through christians loving them....after visions, and miracles

We have to come to faith and love through prayer

- Local prayer networks will mobilize the grass roots
- it's time to devote ourselves to prayer...
- There is a spirit behind every religion...even christianity!
- No point evangelizing without prayer warfare!...
- Prayer is the detonator of the explosive of evangelism
- For god to remove fear and unbelief and fill us with love
- Ordinary christians loving these treasures in darkness

Story of mahabba oxford : 2005 called to oxford

- Tim and Rachel Green called home from Pakistan
- Slowly gathered across all the churches
- Bridged every denominational divide!
- A network of ordinary Christians who loved Muslims
- No office/ agency/ staff/ equipment
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City networks began to spread over UK over last two years

- So many worried about radicals, and about Syria and ISIS
- 550 radicals known but maybe 2000 involved from UK!
- Mahabba UK office opened in 2012
- Working into over 50 cities now in UK
- 60+ cities already have a network
- Defined as: championed by local leaders in unity/weekly prayer
- All different but same DNA
- Not a programme!...
- Its prayer-generated, spirit-led, and relationally networked

Networks spread virally to other nations

- France, Belgium, Norway, Denmark already translated and set up
- Working into Austria, Germany, Switzerland
- Chicago...ted moved out there....but USA is different!
- Now in Singapore, Australia,
- Interest in S. Africa, Korea, India
- It's not about Mahabba!
- It's about a holy spirit moment of opportunity
- Mobilizing the Ezekiel army...from the valley of dry fearful bones!
- Unity and prayer will lead to faith and love
- Faith / love will be the catalyst to many Muslims coming to Christ

Major focus now is on “ mentoring and multiplying” the converts

- “joining the family”
- 30+ church planters gathered from around Europe in 2013
- Stories from UK, Stockholm, Athens, Spain, ..etc

Time to begin networking the city prayer networks

- A learning prayer community around Europe and beyond
- Encouraged by stories
- Sharing resources

- Produced a church leaders guide and a toolkit, and website
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The mahabba oxford story:

1. Weekly morning prayer from 2006: prayer is the heart of mahabba

- Mahabba birthed....."Love" in arabic
- **Mahabba**: muslims accepting that he is "abba"
- Two years...a community formed across the churches
- Suddenly things began to happen after 2 years prayer
- joined by two couples from awm: abu bakr mulumba/ pat brittenden
- 40 + converts in 5 years....then 1 convert brings 120!
- Iranians, saudis, libyans and others

2. Formed a relational network...no heavy structure

- Turned the pyramid upside down
- Like eph 4 ministries....to equip ordinary christians for service!
- Over 500 now trained in oxford
- Gathered resources
- Started the email communications emails...

3. developed the "friendship first" course and " come follow me"

- We found ff/ewi corrected misconceptions of muslims....
- Most are family loving, peaceful...longing to meet a god of love!
- Dvd's from kitab/lulu
- Learning groups in areas, meeting to learn together about islam
- Nick chatrath: one stop guide to reaching muslims

4. prayer walking the cowley muslim area

- Jesus film distribution around cowley...
- Finding contacts - finding men and women of peace
- Reaching asylum seekers ...

5. Booktable set up by maurice...

- 2500 bibles or books per year plus 1000 tracts a week
- Several baptized now... So many good seeds
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6. partnership with "move in":

- 2 male, 1 female house in cowley...
- Host houses for muslim language students
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7. muslim converts: saira, khalid, ..

- So many iranians: elam
- Iranian fellowship...then arabic fellowship...harder with urdu
- Many led to the lord by local doctor
- Medical centres up north
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8. gathered muslim converts together...40+

- Seminar by mbb's: "how we need to be cared for!"
- New course " **finding family**"...and then "**starting new families**"
- Social events planned for cultural groups and around baptisms
- Regular easter/ christmas parties tailored for mbb's
- Ramadan gatherings in mosque..iftar parties
- Experience of sandvika and cairo
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9. sadiqui summer outreach for 2 weeks... 20 people

- International muslim outreach
- Coffee house: weekly in commonwealth house
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10. clash with imams over prayer at start of ramadan

- Healing rooms agreed...then put on ice!
- Now "meetings for better understanding"...mbu's
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11. almassira partnership with mahabba

- Talk of discipleship and safe housesready for harvest
- But never too busy to pray: **mahabba begins and ends in prayer!**
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12.Hub developed...for online learning community

- Mahabbanetwork.com
- Place to share resources and lessons learnt
- Just developing links to evangelistic websites in muslim languages
- Love to connect with you all!