

**From Shahe Haider "Witnessing to the World Around Us":** I was recently invited to attend a conference on witnessing to Muslims in Minnesota and to speak at several churches. God provided the costs and lodging, my part was to obey and "go". I grew up in the Islamic faith and gave my life to Jesus as an adult. I like to share my testimony in hopes that it will encourage others to also seek Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The conference was very spiritually challenging for me. In a way, like putting on old shoes that no longer fit and it hurt. Parts of the teachings would equate the god of Islam with the God that created the universe, they taught from the Islamic holy book and the Holy Bible, and about the Islamic prophet and about Jesus. They were attempting to come up with a way to witness to the Islamic world without hurting their feelings, stepping on toes, or insulting their way of doing things. All of this was hard for me to hear. You see, I had been rescued from my old way of life by a very wonderful Savior. He is enough and what He did on the cross was sufficient! He is a Living God, He hears me and answers my prayers, He is involved in my life and speaks to me. My God loves me. I know that there is a difference, He is the difference! I would never want to share a watered down version of who God is just to make others "feel good." God was real and authentic with me and that's the way I like to share Him with others!

So it was challenging to be still, listen to what they were teaching and yes, be bold and stand up for the Savior to whom I believe in. God clearly had a plan for me to be there. He provided opportunity after opportunity for me to share truth with individuals, pastors, reporters, church members and young people who He was in my life, and not the watered down version, but the All Powerful, real version. The Bible is the inspired Word of God. It is alive and powerful! In fact, although I no longer believe in the Islamic holy book, it is amazing how God used this conference to show me that God can use anyone and anything to bring Himself glory. In the Koran, Jesus is the only one called an example, blessed, and a sign. He is the only person named to be close to God, aided by the Spirit, called the statement of truth, and highly exalted in both this world and the world to come. The only two times the word *predestined* is used in the Koran, is in Sura Maryam 19:21, 71 and both verses are about Jesus and no one else. God wants to have a relationship with every creation. He is planning a great wedding feast in eternity and He is about the business of inviting the guests to His great banquet. If we choose to be dressed in the garment of righteousness that Jesus offers, we get to attend this great eternal celebration with our God. Each of us needs to be sharing Jesus with as many people face to face as possible each day so that they too can attend this great feast. We need to pray for our lost family and friends and the people in our neighborhoods. There is power in prayer! How do I know? Below is a picture of two guys from my school days. They remember me back when I was a Muslim. John Bogle and Tim Larsen witnessed to me all through middle and high school. They shared Jesus with me daily even when I didn't want to listen, and yes, stepped on my toes in love more times than I can count. What I didn't know was that they had made a list of ten people to pray for, and I was the only girl named. They have been praying for me to come to Christ for years. During this time in Minnesota we were able to reconnect for the first time as brothers and sister in Christ Jesus! These guys were obedient to share and pray, and God was faithful to answer. God is so good! Share Him in love with the world around us! May God be glorified today and always!



*Left: John Bogle (Youth Pastor at Ridgetop), Tim Larsen (Involved in his churches' youth ministry) & Shahe Haider. Right: Prayer shawl gift from church members, Michael & Una that have prayed for Shahe for many years!*



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