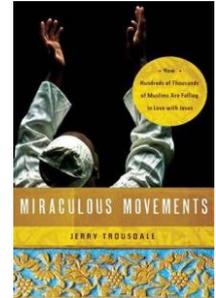


# Jerry Trousdale : Miraculous Movements – how hundreds of thousands of Muslims are falling in love with Jesus

Thomas Nelson 2012

Notes by Alison Morgan April 2014

Worked with CityTeam International, an American ministry, in W, Central and E Africa, among poorly reached Muslim people groups. Influenced by David Watson. Stories of Muslims finding Christ – location mostly not specified. Common themes – a god-fearing Muslim, often an imam, dissatisfied by the lack of assurance and internal contradictions of Islam. Often spoken to directly by God, usually then helped by an existing Christian who has been trained as a disciple-making ‘storyteller’, sharing the gospel in narrative form, starting with creation. Sometimes whole mosques/villages have converted to Christ.



## Principles:

- Go slow at first in order to go fast later
- Focus on a few to win many
- Engage an entire family/group, not just the individual
- Share only when and where people are ready to hear
- Start with creation, not Christ
  - Muslims believe God created the heavens and the earth; it's a place of agreement to start from. Don't start in the middle of the story.
- It's about discovering and obeying, not teaching and knowledge
  - Jesus told puzzling stories, he didn't just give answers
- Disciple people to conversion, not vice versa
  - He walk with them first, share the truths of God, ask them to live by them, only then ask them to make a decision – this is what Jesus did
- Coach people from the beginning to discover and obey biblical truth
- Prepare to spend a long time making strong disciples, but anticipate miraculous accelerations.
- Expect the hardest places to yield the greatest results

## Prayer is key. Elements of a prayer strategy:

1. Leaders living and modelling personal disciplines of prayer
2. Praying for new regions and pioneer teams
3. Training new Christians to pray
4. Developing intercessory prayer in every church

## Disillusion and discontent inside Islam

Nothing is sure in Islam – even the sheiks are not sure if they will be in Paradise. A converted Muslim called Ali shares his journey of enquiry. He became dissatisfied with the Koran. He prayed 5x a day but it was a dry experience. He started to wonder where the Koran came from – it was not written down for 40 years after Muhammed's visions, and 20 years after his death. It has no chronological coherence - it's a jumble; and all the promises it contains are for Mohammed, not for me! And the Hadiths often contradict the Koran. One of them teaches that Allah created Adam, and out of his right shoulder came people with white skin (Allah told them they belong in Paradise) and out of his left shoulder came people with black skin (Allah told them they belong in hell). Then the Koran teaches that we should believe Muhammed and his messengers – one of whom is Isa or Jesus; and even that anyone who believes in Isa will have great reward, and anyone who does not, great punishment (sura 3).

More and more Muslims are doubting the teaching and worldview of Islam, a rigid belief system about which they are not supposed to ask questions. Leaders are discouraged as they struggle to meet deep spiritual needs in a system built around a very different view of God than the loving God of the Bible. *A personal, loving relationship with God is not only impossible in Islam, it is not even a desired goal.* The greatest single challenge is the lack of any assurance of paradise for even the most devout believer. Another issue is the poor treatment of women. Another attraction to Christianity is the love shown by Christians. Another is Muhammed's own

confession he didn't know what would happen to him after death. A former Muslim had asked his grandfather what Mohammed said when he was dying – that he did not know what Allah would do to him, and that nothing can save us from Allah's punishment. Then he told him Jesus said he goes to prepare a place for us; and asked, which would you follow, the one who does not know where he is going, or the one who does?

Muslims are prevented from reading the Koran except in Arabic – which effectively prevents them discovering its contradictions, and the contradictions between its teaching and some Muslim writings and practices; it also conceals the many passages affirming the special status of Isa al Masih.

Finding people of peace is the key task.

Knowledge without obedience creates a dichotomy. Adam and Eve had knowledge, but failed to add obedience. Choosing knowledge over obedience is foolish; and it plagues the modern church.

### **The importance of small groups:**

- Groups remember more than individuals
- Groups learn faster than individuals
- Groups replicate faster than individuals
- Groups replicate more often than individuals
- Groups are a protection against bad leadership and heresy
- Groups self-correct
- Groups keep individuals accountable
- Making disciples is a discovery process; learning together
- Making disciples is obedience based; putting it into practice together.

Their discovery bible study system is inductive – its purpose is not to build knowledge but to analyse the word of God so as to discover the principles of life for a disciple, a leader, a church. As people discover these things, they align their lives to them.

### **Two kinds of churches:**

1. Elephant churches – lots of programmes, activities, people – we need them, but they take ages to multiply
2. Rabbit churches – small, able to hide, multiply quickly. 2 rabbits can produce over 100m rabbits in 3 years...

Their average church size is between 15 and 31. Leaders are self-supporting, all members participate in discovery bible studies, often a dramatic healing occurs in the first few months, meetings are discovery bible studies plus prayer meetings. Between 50 and 70% of new churches happen in part because of signs and wonders.

### **Paradigm shifts:**

- Make intercessory prayer the top priority
- Make disciples who make disciples
- Invest time in the right person
- Don't tell people what to believe and do
- Never settle for revealing just one dimension of Jesus's life
- Never substitute knowledge about God for an obedience-based relationship with God
- Understand that Jesus does impossible things through ordinary people

### **Getting started:**

1. Pray abundantly
2. Gain access to the community
3. Find the person of peace
4. Start a discovery bible study with the person of peace and his network (opening, review, bible passage, living it out)
5. Baptise and start a church
6. Develop leaders.

## Discovering God Scripture List

God Creates	Genesis 1:1-25
God Creates Man and Woman	Genesis 2:4-24
Man and Woman Eat the Fruit	Genesis 3:1-13
God's Curses	Genesis 3:14-24
God Regrets His Creation	Genesis 6:5-8
God Saves Noah and His Family	Genesis 6:9-8:14
God's Covenant with Noah	Genesis 8:15-9:17
God's Covenant with Abram	Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-7
Abraham Gives His Son as an Offering	Genesis 22:1-19
God Spares His People	Exodus 12:1-28
The Commands of God	Exodus 20:1-21
The Sin Offering	Leviticus 4:1-35
God's Righteous Servant	Isaiah 53
Jesus is Born	Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20
Jesus is Baptized	Matthew 3; John 1:29-34
Jesus is Tested	Matthew 4:1-11
Jesus and the Religious Leader	John 3:1-21
Jesus and the Samaritan Woman	John 4:1-26, 39-42
Jesus and the Paralyzed Man	Luke 5:17-26
Jesus Calms the Storm	Mark 4:35-41
Jesus and the Man with Evil Spirits	Mark 5:1-20
Jesus Raises a Man from the Dead	John 11:1-44
Jesus Talks about His Betrayal and the Covenant	Matthew 26:17-30
Jesus is Betrayed and Faces Trial	John 18:1-19:16
Jesus is Crucified	Luke 23:32-56
Jesus is Resurrected	Luke 24:1-35
Jesus Appears to the Disciples and Ascends to Heaven	Luke 24:36-53
Enter into the Kingdom God	John 3:1-21

God's Word	In My Words	"I Will..." Statements
(Write out the text long-hand.)	(Paraphrase to explain to a 12-year old. Include what you learn about God and what you learn about people.)	Sin to confess or avoid?  Prayer to pray? Praise to give? Promise to claim?  Example to imitate?  Command to obey?  Knowledge to gain?  <hr/> I will  I will  I will  I will

## *Discovery Bible Study Gameplan*

### **Discipling praise:**

- Question: *“What happened last week for which you are thankful?”* #1
- Encourage everyone to answer briefly.

### **Discipling intercession:**

- Question: *“What struggles are happening in your life, family or community?”* #2
- After the study there will be a follow-up question.

### **Discipling accountability (not done the first week):**

- Ask, “What did you learn our last time together?”
- Ask, *“How did the attempt to help with the need go?”* #3

### **Discipling hearing God’s word to obey:**

- Have the text read/told well (If illiterate it must be told well.)
- Ask for a volunteer to re-tell the passage in his/her own words.
- Ask the rest of the group to fill in any details that were overlooked.
  
- Ask, *“What do we learn about God in this section?”* #4
- Ask, *“What do we learn about humanity from the section?”* #5
- Ask, *“How would your life change if you put this passage into practice?”* #6
- Ask, *“Who do you know who needs to hear this lesson?”* #7

### **Discipling being servants:**

- Earlier we heard about (insert appropriate need).
- Ask, *“How can we help meet that need?”* #8

This format is followed every meeting. While it may seem too simplistic or redundant, it is to be repeated until it becomes something the group knows to do without thinking about it (the three “R’s” of education—“repetition, repetition...”

There is one more question that is needed at times—*“Where is that in this passage?”* #9  
The group is trained to ask this question when someone tries to bring in topics that are not included in the text as a way to keep the group on track. Here they are being disciplined to depend on Scripture as their source of spiritual authority.

**Outside leaders should never facilitate more than two studies. It is preferable if they never facilitate, but rather coach the Person of Peace to ask the questions .**