



# FRIDAYFAX 2.0

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Kingdom-focussed E-Mail news-bulletin with inspiring reports of God at work around the world, with special emphasis on the current global reformation of Church and Missions. **Editor:** Wolfgang Simson. Subscription: €30/ US-\$ 40 per year. Freitagfax 2.0, PO Box 1248, D-79397 Kandern, Germany. Email [info@ffax2.com](mailto:info@ffax2.com); website: [www.ffax2.com](http://www.ffax2.com). © Dawn Europa e.V.; 22 issues per year, available in English and German.

## Did Al Qaeda read the Bible?

In an amazing move of God around the world, more and more Muslims are turning to Jesus. What we have reported already in 2005 (the particular Fridayfax issue was called “The Millennium Event”) is now a growing phenomenon: in many countries churchplanting movements have emerged and continue to emerge, that are consisting of 100% former Muslims. Typically, these movements are underground networks of housechurches, churches that refuse to be organized according to Western programme-driven churches who meet once a week in a special sanctuary, but churches that function very much like an extended family and do not grow by addition, but by multiplication, like a virus.

The big majority of Muslims today (like most Christians) are Muslims by name only, cultural Muslims. A smaller group are the orthodox Muslims of various expressions, and some, representing a growing fraction, are from a rather fundamentalist and radical Muslim background. As we could expect, Muslims from all three backgrounds are now coming to faith in Christ, swept off their feet by the amazing love and compassion of Jesus.

Some of those that are now coming to Jesus Christ have previously embraced radical Islam, and some have given their lives for the sake of Allah in training camps of infamous groups like *Hamas*, the *Hizbollah*, *Abu Sayyaf* (Philippines) or the Indonesian group *Jemaah Islamiyah*. In other words, they have already died long ago to a “normal” life focussed on middle class values like family, children, work, career, taxes, vacations and pension plans. They have already, together with many thousands of others, shouted out loud their agreement to the challenge of some radical preacher of Islam, mostly of the Saudi Arabian *Wahhabite* type, to die a *shahid*, a martyr for Islam in a *Jihad*, a Holy War. They have been trained for suicide missions, have said their farewells to their parents, clans, mosques and lands, live in radical obedience to the extremely strict regime in their terrorist cells, wait for their next “mission” – and, through amazing circumstances, suddenly find themselves in the loving arms of - Jesus!

In an amazing new chapter of Church history, in a number of countries, Muslims with such backgrounds are finding now to Christ. With their special background, we could expect that once they find peace at the feet of King Jesus, they will not really settle down nicely in a pew at the back of a traditional Church as church member number 101, sing a few songs, listen to a sermon, drink a coffee and go home, waiting for next Sunday. They will much rather seek with all their heart to redeem their deadly and violent past and future with something that is equivalent, to replace it with an even better mission, this time not sent out by a radical group of terrorists, but by the radical love of God that sends out his very best into this world. On a mission that brings life, not death. Do you remember Jesus who said: “The one who is forgiven much loves much?” One of my close friends is the mentor of such a man; they all call this former Muslim terrorist now the “Jihadi Pastor”, as he has now decided to serve Jesus in his new life. The question is: as more and more of such *Jihadi*-Christians join the ranks of Christ, what is their contribution? How will Missions look like, developed by a group of converted *Shahid* who now follow Jesus? Mission shaped not by traditional Churches, but by those that have already died to their own self long ago, something that many Christians are still so much struggling with, and have decided to follow Isa al Masih, Jesus the Messiah, the ultimate *shahid*, the one who died for all of us on the cross in God’s Holy War against sin and the “Great Satan”, the devil?

## The biblical fivefold ministry structure – and Al Qaeda

A frequently used term in Christian Missions today is “the Fivefold Ministry”, “APEST” or “4/11 ministries”, referring back to Ephesians 4:11. Here Paul speaks of five functions that equip the saints for ministry: “Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers”. In my eyes, Al Qaeda is a demonic and terrorist entity. However, looking at it from a purely structural perspective, we find that if we lay its deadly intent aside, it is astonishingly structured and patterned after an original biblical fivefold ministry concept:

1) Biblically, we speak of Apostles and an “Apostolic Council”, that works flat-structured and non-hierarchical. In the twisted and top-down world of Al Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden is the *emir* and Senior Chief, sometimes



called “The Sheik”, advised by a *shura* council of 20-30 senior Al Qaeda members like Ayman al-Zawahiri. What we see is a false apostle surrounded by a false apostolic council.

2) The bible knows evangelists and “evangelistic Teams”. In a demonic copy of this, the “Operations” division of Al Qaeda, also called the Military committee, is training people for “outreach”: it’s domain is also weapons acquisition, and planning attacks.

3) The biblical original speaks of pastors and deacons. In Al Qaeda, gathering and organizing people and, most importantly, their finances, is the task of the Money or Business committee. From running the payroll to providing air tickets and false passports the Management office oversees Al Qaeda “member care” and moneymaking businesses (a US based report speaks of an estimated 30 million \$ per year to run operations.)

4) The bible speaks of “Prophets”. In it’s own world, Al Qaeda runs a Propaganda division, known often as their Media committee (which ran the former newspaper *Nashrat al Akhbar* and handled public relations. This division decides what pieces of information or disinformation are given to the public, and when.

5) Teachers have a vital role in Christianity. Al Qaeda runs a doctrine division that studies the Koran, reviews Islamic law and decides if particular courses of action conform to that law. This Islamic study/fatwah committee also issues religious edicts, such as an edict (fatwah) in 1998 telling Muslims to kill Americans.

### The role of the *Madrassahs*

*Madrassahs* are simply Koranic schools of all kinds, very much like “Christian” schools. However, in order to indoctrinate as many children as possible towards a much more radical and violent Islam, more and more *madrassahs* have been radicalised, staffed by radical Islamic Imams, typically of the *Wahhabite* sect, the form of Islam currently mainstream in Saudi Arabia, and paid for by Petrodollars. In many of these schools, often out in villages with hardly any other form of education, the children are often indoctrinated with endless repetitions of Koranic verses - and violence. The goal of such an “education” is not education, but hyper-religious brainwashing, the production of masses of *Jihad* warriors. Such *madrassah*-raised youths become, at some point, virtually unemployable in the real world. And if there is one option open to all of them, it is to be drafted into an organization that needs people ready for violence – and with heads filled with selected verses of the Koran. What would happen if Christian foundations and major donors would invest in the strategic development of healthy Christian schools with a decidedly missional focus, where people are not trained for their vocation in business (to make money), but trained for a life decidedly following Christ (making Missions their lives’ priority)?



### Hawala Networks

Hawala networks, also known as *hundi*, originally invented by Hindu merchants on both sides of the Silk road to combat the rampant robberies, have found an ingenious way of dispensing money, being far more efficient and cheaper than standard bank-based financial transactions. Based on trust and relationship, such financial networks actually do not pass on money (which might be stolen on the way from A to B) they pass on *trust*.

They are an *informal value transfer system*. Hawala/hundi networks have been used mainly in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and allow for the very quick and virtually non-traceable dispensing of funds internationally. It is a shared-value-based concept that would not work in cultures (or in religions) where individuals basically don’t trust each other (like in so-called “Christian” cultures).

### The Challenge

Rather than saying that we should “learn from Al Qaeda”, I observe that Al Qaeda has seemingly been learning from biblical principles. It contains a certain challenge to observe Muslims that are finding concepts that are rooted in biblical revelation – and put it into practice far more radically than most Christians or even Missions-as-we-know-it. The same principle is true for business: more and more “secular” business concepts heavily borrow from biblical thoughts and ideas, and are sold as the latest inventions, innovations and break-through concepts on the market. Much of it (sharing, vision, mission, shared values, “starfish” concepts etc.) has already become part of the mental furniture of the corporate world. The fact that many thousands and tens of thousands of Muslims are coming to Christ in these months and years, means that they, renewed by Christ, may be bringing something very valuable and even fresh to the table and will probably be shaping Missions in many new ways – ways that might remind some of the good-old days of apostolic mission in the first place. This is a great chance to embrace it and learn from it, rather than attempting to, one more time, rope in this development, domesticate it, adapt it, emasculate it and make it, yet again, part of our harmless, Sunday school, Middle class Churchianity. Or will some of us be shaken up, encouraged to decidedly return to embrace the original Jesus Christ and his original Mission, and do so in ways that will be far beyond Osama Bin Laden’s and any terrorist’s worst nightmares?

(A cool novel taking the reader deeper into the intricate maze of Al Qaeda called “The Afghan” has been published recently by UK-author Frederick Forsyth)

