

Well, welcome. It's great to have Daniel Messiah with us here this evening. And he and I are going to attempt to conduct a little interview here. But before we get going it was brought to my attention that today is Daniel's 29th birthday.

Ooh. All right, so there's one way that I bless.

Everyone that I know that has a birthday. I usually leave a voicemail, but you guys can help me out, so here we go. Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday.

To you. Happy birthday, dear Daniel. Happy birthday to you.

You praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Thank you. Microphone is on. I think so, yeah. Good. Okay. Technology. That's fine. Yeah that's fine. Okay. I think everybody can hear me. You're good. Yes, sir.

Well, before we get into the questions about the differences between Christianity and Islam, I wanted to make sure for those of you who didn't know how we were connected and give Daniel a chance to talk about what's going on now and what we get the opportunity to support. So Daniel and I met in South Sudan in October of 2008. Correct. And so what God did with that trip was he used that as a catalyst to give Daniel the faith to pursue going into full time ministry to the Muslim world? And so at Parkland Chapel, we got to be one of the first churches to be on his support team. He and I ended up meeting shortly after that trip in San Diego at Starbucks. You remember that? Yes. Talked about what you were going to do. And so we got to be kind of on his launch team. And so he's been coming out here since 2010. Almost every year. Every time he comes, there's a storm or some kind of cataclysmic event. One time we had a funnel cloud directly above the church. We had to stop the service in the middle and evacuate the kids down to the more safe part of the metal buildings. right. But Daniel, prior to launching full time Ministry of Open Gates was a church planter in San Diego, where he planted 4 or 5 churches.

Five churches.

In East County and East County, San Diego. I'll let him address some of this has one of the largest populations of Arabs in the country, both Muslims and Christian Chaldeans. And there is a difference. But that said part of what we do is we partner with him is that every year we give a little bit extra to a Christmas outreach that become has become really his biggest evangelical event there in San Diego each

year. So I thought to begin, let's talk about that just for a second, if you don't mind, as you get started.

First of all, I wanted to thank you so much, church, for your faithfulness. And let me tell you, this man here is a man of God. And it's not just a pastor. for church. he has a heart for each one of you. Even heart for missionary. And it's he is amazing. I'm not saying that in front of him, but that's what in my heart, I love him. And God put us together in a special way to reach out to Muslim people. And thank you for your support to open the gates. And by the way, did you guys know you know, the story of the name opens the gates? How many of you. Here is the story. Raise your hand. Okay, a few of you. Okay. how many of you heard Egyptian? Are the funniest people in the Middle East? If you go to any Middle Eastern people and ask them who are the most funniest people, they will tell you Egyptian. And to prove the story for you I was in Spain in training. Training some missionaries. And one day I got, you know, the Lord put in my heart. Take 500 Bibles in your car, in your trunk. Go to Morocco. And there is a border in to go from Spain to Morocco. And it has soldiers and very, very secure border. no. Christian material or Bibles. they search every car and I have a missionary. I grab him in my way from I said, come on, you know, we'll go smuggle Bibles in Morocco. He said, you are crazy, man. They will arrest us. I told them, don't be a chicken. Come on. You know you are. You are an American. And worst case scenario, they will return you back to America. But they will arrest me. Because at that time, I didn't have the American passport yet. And I convinced him. I pushed him in my car and I start driving. And we came to the border and at the border the soldier in charge of the gates, he stopped my car and I lowered the window, and he told me, where are you from? I told him, I'm from Egypt. Immediately he told me, tell me a joke. Because, you know, we are funny people. You know, they watching our movie, you know, they consider us like Hollywood of the Middle East. You know? And the guy I started praying, Lord, give me a joke because I lived this joke long time ago. I have 500 Bibles in my trunk. And and finally I got one, and I shared the joke with him. And he start laughing and he shared a joke with other soldier and suddenly he start yelling, open the gate to this guy! And they open the gates. And I saw going with my car, I have 500 Bibles in my trunk. He didn't search me. And later when I started the ministry, I was thinking about the name, and the Lord told me, open the gates. You remember what happened? and the name is really powerful because Muslim, you know, afraid of Christian and Christian afraid of Muslim. And you can imagine a gate is closed and Muslim on one side and Christian on the other side, and there is fear, you know, between both of them. And the Lord is calling me and calling open the gates to open the gates and let Christian go to the other side and bring them to the side of Christ. And basically our mission is to preach the

gospel without fear. And if you, you, you can Google our website, open the gates. open the gates. Some people open the gates. You know, because of my accent. But I, I will ask you to go and you will see a lot of video and media over there. Now, I forgot the question. Okay, okay. about how the mission start. Thank you. I remember in 2000 eight, the year we met. pastor Ray Bentley. He is a senior pastor at that time at Maranatha Chapel. I was leaving the bookstore, and he was leaving the sanctuary, and we both came face to face, and he stopped me, and he said, do you know Arabic language? I said, yeah, he said, okay, I want you to come with me to Sudan. And in my mind, I start thinking, you know, I left Egypt. I was persecuted in Egypt, and I spent eight months in prison, solitary confinement because of the gospel. And now in in America, I wanted some rest, you know, and here is pastor Ray telling me, come with me to Sudan. And I know Sudan. In fact the level of living in Sudan is is very low. It's not like Egypt. Egypt is a modern country. But still, in my mind, you wanted me to go to Sudan. You know, I'm here in America, I. I have a wife, I have children, you know, let me enjoy that. That's everything going in my mind. Quick. And he said, you will come, right? I said, okay, I will come. I respect him, I love him. And he forced me to to the mission field. You know, and I went with him and in Sudan and we were doing ministry with with Bentley and.

Far reaching ministries.

Far reaching ministry. And he's reaching the chaplains. And the minute I went there, I got connected because I felt like God put me in the mission field again. You know, I tried to run from the mission field after what happened to to me in Egypt. And now, you know, I'm in America. But the minute I went there, I saw God is putting me back in a in a great mission field, and I start sharing with them, and they start shouting, you know, praise the Lord. And I shared my story with them. I was Muslim, became a Christian. They start, you know, shouting more. And I told them, okay, if you guys are excited, let us go to the mosque. And we went to a mosque and we carried this track, this track, and we give it to 100 of people on Friday when they were leaving the mosque, I told the chaplain, you know, just spread yourself around the mosque and just hug the Muslim and give them one booklet. And the booklet basically showing all the verses from the Quran. witnessing that the Bible is the word of God. And people will see the cover, the cover of the booklet, you know, that's the English cover. no alteration to the word of Allah. And I call it purposely this, this is a verse in the Quran, and I put it in the cover this way. When a muslim hold it or look at it will take it, will not throw it away. And we give a lot of, of this track in Sudan and then I end up going to the mosque and I start to witness to the imam and all the chaplain gets scared,

and they grab me from the mosque. They put me on a motorcycle and they start driving me back. to the mission house, and me and Mike, we have great time, you know, talking together. And do you want me to tell them what you try to teach me? And he. He tried to to teach me some bad word in in English, you know like, when you see someone you like, you can say to him hey, dog, you know, and for me, in my English, I can't say, hey, dog to anybody, you know? And he asked me to go. Go tell this brother, you know, American brother like Andy, you know, go tell him, hey, dog, and see what he was saying. You know, and I was scared because, you know I didn't know what it can happen. And then I went to Andy, and I told him, hey, dog. And Andy said, hey, dog, you know? And I said, that's really weird English. You know because in our Arabic translations, that's a bad word, you know, to say to someone, hey, dog, you know, and also, he tried to teach me some another word was for me, it's. I never heard about it. bling bling, you know, he said, when you go say to people bling bling and and I end up going back to my house to my kids. And when they opened the door my son, I told him, hey, hey, dog. You know, and he started looking to me because he knows his dad. You know, I never have those words, you know? And he start laughing, and he said, dad, where are you? You learned this. I said, one of the pastors I met in Sudan teach me those. And my girl started laughing when I said, bling bling. You know? Yeah. And I found myself in the mission field, you know, and God really surrounded me with, very special friend like Mike. Pastor Ray and Pastor Gary Lawton and Santee agreed. man of God to. And I feel I am special for the Lord. I have favor, I have surrounded by really godly people. That's what I can say. And and each one of you guys need to be surrounded by godly people. That's the key. to be success in your Christian life. Because those godly people will impact your life in amazing way. I think I answered the first question. No, no. Oh.

So. Okay, so with that is the background for how you got into ministry then currently what you're doing in El Cajon, specifically the outreach.

That's a different question. It's not the same question.

That's not the that's the question I.

Asked you. Okay, okay, okay.

And I start thinking where Muslim are in fact, I need to go back a little bit. You know my son died in Orange County and miraculously, you know, the Lord raised him from the dead. And I prayed over him. He was drowning in the swimming pool for half an hour, and my wife grabbed him. Did, and she called me. Your son

is dead. Your son is dead. And I came rushing to the place, and I found him in a bag. And to make the story short, I kneel next to the bag and I just prayed a short prayer. I said, Lord, show me your glory. And boom! He starts screaming inside the bag. They opened the bag and they treated him and took him to the hospital. And I remember the doctor told me I brought the water in a container like this full of water. And he said, don't put your hope high. Your son will be vegetable. And again, your English is weird because my son will be vegetable. The word vegetable, I know, is a vegetable. We eat. He told me your son will be vegetable, you know, and I look at my friend, I said what vegetable mean? And he explained he will have a brain damage. And the doctor said he will lose his hearing or sight, and he will not recognize you. Anyway, I went to the reception area. I stopped praying on my knees, and I start praying again. And I said, Lord I wanted you to show me your glory. I am committing myself to you again and surrender. And I wanted to see your power. And please heal my son completely. And after a couple of hours, Josh opened his eyes. after coma. And the minute he saw me, he did like that to me. And at that time, I know he recognized me, and he's healed. And that was the turning, another turning point in my life to start thinking where I start doing ministry. And I ask the pastor in Costa mesa, which area has Muslim population? I have in my heart? burden to reach out to Muslim. And one of the pastors told me, San Diego, I took my wife and I took Joshua and my old car and we start heading to San Diego. If, you know, highway 15, it's very you know like Big Hill and I have five gear car number five broke, number three broke, and number two broke. I have furniture and the car start shaking. Number two broke. And finally, number one broke. And I start talking with Satan. I said, you tried to kill my son. And Jesus raised him. You try to kill my car. I will not allow you to do that. And I remember I have the reverse gear still working. I put the car on the reverse gear and I start driving with my back on the highway. all the cars going with their front. I'm going with my back and I took the exit and I landed in my apartment at El Cajon Boulevard. And second day the car died, you know? But at least we arrived. And we start praying and we start taking in tracks, Bibles, going to Arabic store, supermarket, talking with people. And we start inviting them to our apartment. We started a small group and we have Muslim came and some Chaldean came and I led them to Christ. And we start looking for a place. And we found a place like your church at College Avenue Baptist Church, near to San Diego State. And as a pastor gave us to use the facility and the church started growing and we reaching out and we became like around 400 people on Sunday morning. And from this church I planted other four churches. And it was a great blessing. Muslim people right now in San Diego in El Cajon City, are open for the gospel. Last year, we have outreach and we have almost over 500 Muslim people came to attend the Christmas celebration. And what I did last year, I invited the

messianic rabbi to bring his Jewish messianic group to come and worship with the Muslim people and with the Chaldean people. And we have a great testimony seeing you know, rabbis coming with beard and Muslim sitting next to each other. on the table, eating together Syrian refugees Afghanistan refugees and messianic group and Jewish and also Muslim people and Christian people, you know, Chaldean and one of the picture touched me when the photographer said to me, all the picture. I saw a Syrian refugee lady carrying a baby. And in picture, this lady gave the rabbi's wife to carry her baby. And in the picture you see the rabbi with his head and his wife and the Syrian lady giving her baby to the rabbi. wife. And it was great. And we have Korean worship. I brought some other Korean, we call it International Christmas Celebration. ICC. You know, and this way, Muslim will be encouraged to come and we give every child a gift. And you church, every year, is supporting this outreach. And we have big impact this year. We are contracting with a place can carry a thousand people in it. Because I know this year will be more than last year, because right now Muslims are searching for answer. And they start to see that Islam is not really satisfying their spiritual hunger. I think I did.

It, you did.

It took you two shots, but you did.

It. Hey.

So think about this then. before we move on to Islam versus Christianity. Yeah. So, we're also a part as a church of how you reach the broader Arab world right through rock TV. So you guys may or may not know that all of our messages get.

Broadcast.

Broadcast, subtitled in Arabic. And and then and then sent out over the satellite television. Right, right. So you talk a little bit about that how you do that and who you reach with that and where that goes and whatnot.

The Lord abroad, this vision to me around seven years ago that to use satellite to reach out to Middle East. And if you know, Ruth satellite, know government can stop broadcast. They can stop me in my car to carry Bibles. But through the satellite and media and the internet, it's very hard for the government to stop the message of Christ and the Lord opened a door for me to start a satellite in Middle East. And we are on 338 Arabic channel in the Middle East. And, we are on major even American channel like Roku and, other channel, if you have the box, you can

see our channel and we have Pastor Mike sermon on Sunday. on subtitle Arabic. You know I cut all of his joke because he doesn't it does not make sense for the Middle East or. Sorry, sorry, Mike. You know but I kept him in focusing on preaching, you know, because I think that's what he's good at. You know? And we praise the Lord, you know over 150,000 and we almost reaching to 200,000 every day, every day, you know, 150,000. It's couple of millions around the globe watching me and my program. Him while he preaching and different. We have another two major American preachers on our rock set. And it's really powerful. And the whole idea to bring him and other American preacher because Muslim people thinking American are infidels, you know, when they see pastors preaching the gospel, and they have the word of God, they start thinking, wow, American are good people, you know, not like what we think. And we have great impact in Middle East. And great common. And people respond and sending a letter and people get saved on watching the program on TV.

Thank you. Yeah. It's a blessing to get to be a part of that. So, you know, when you show up on a Sunday morning, you're a part of a global worship experience that you probably were not some of you even aware of.

And I forgot, if we have a newsletter at the door, on the table, when you leave, that's the we have a page about the rock set in the back table. And you can learn more about it and also about our Bible college in North Carolina. And you guys also support our Bible college. Pastor Mike was the first one when he heard we started Bible college in North Carolina. You know, he start supporting the the vision. And he came and he visited us and he teach there a couple of times. And, you know, I encourage you to grab one of these.

Okay. That's a great segue. All that was fantastic. Now, for a little bit here, we got about 15 minutes left.

Okay.

Talk about, like, maybe three main. differences between Islam and Christianity.

Okay.

there is a lot of difference between Islam and Christianity, but, I will talk because I know maybe this service is online will be online. And I try to speak to the woman, to the woman in Islam and the woman in America and the western Western culture because Muslim targeting women and the Muslim woman, they didn't know, even

some of them, they are aware, but they denied it. But it's written on the pages of the Quran. And we saw many beautiful woman in America and Western culture. They converted to Islam by marriage to Muslim people. You know, I didn't know how many of you guys hear about a Christian lady married to a muslim. And after she became a wife, they forced her to accept Islam. And he the the husband got kids from her, and he forced those kids to be Muslim. That's a huge agenda going on in the United States and in England and France. How they convert our nation or other nation like England and France. And for example, one, one of the different I have like just for the woman I listed over 25, but he asked me for three major one, you know, and I agree with him. first of all woman consider half person, half person in Islam, for example, if you are in court as a witness the judge will ask, we need two witness two men, witnesses. If you missing one man, you replace this man with two women. Then according to Sharia law, woman is half person. Okay, that's one different. also, a man can marry for wives in the same time, you know? And the wife cannot object, and he can divorce the four and married another four. Okay. this is written in the Quran, you know?

Hey, real quick to that. Speak just briefly about Muhammad and his marital situation.

Yeah.

For example also, Islam gave permission to a man to marry any young child. The prophet of Islam, Muhammad. He married to a young girl. She was seven years old, and he was 54 years old. And that's written in the Quran in Zechariah. And also Islam giving the man the right to beat his wife till death. And he will not be arrested. He will not be judged in any court of law. And that's why they wanted to force Sharia Allah in America. And in England and France and European country and those those countries are not aware of Muslim agenda, you know, and woman has half of the inheritance in Islam. You know, if I have a boy and a girl and I died, I left inheritance, my boy will take twice. My girl. Okay. And this is all written in the Quran and Sharia law. And I have a lot of them, you know Muhammad himself married a total of 12 wives in the same time. And the one of the dangers teaching in the Quran is the pleasure, marriage, pleasure. Marriage means if I am a businessman and I am doing a business in Missouri, and I met with any lady and I can ask her to marry me for salary or amount of money for a month. A contract of marriage for a month or two months or three months. I divorce her and I go to California. I can contracted marriage with another lady for certain days. It can be a week. It can be two weeks or a month. And that is in the Quran. They call it the pleasure marriage. And my message to all Muslim woman and Christian woman,

just to study how Quran treated woman before you convert, before you get deceived, before you I know some of women, they are single. They want to get married, and they got attracted by the Arabic culture or generosity or all of this. But this is a kind of deception to grab the American lady or the European lady to get married. And then they convert them in the future. And another difference between Islam and Christianity is the doctrine of the Bible and the doctrine of the Quran. in the Quran, God is not love. Allah never love anyone. You know you need to obey God to obey Allah 100% before he loves you. And Christianity God loves you while you are in sin and the his love leading you to repentance and Islam. There is no love with this kind of love. It's you need to fear Allah. You need to do all the command and which you can't. Please. Allah. You can please God 100%. That mean you have no assurance? all Muslim has no assurance that Allah loves them. The second different, the Quran teaching all Muslims are going to hell. No one will escape from hell. It's only in God's final decision, you know, whatever Allah, whatever Allah decide, he will put in heaven. But all Muslim must go to hell and the verse in Arabic, it said woman in her. And it's Quran. chapter 1979. And that second huge difference. There is no guarantee of eternal life. If you ask any Muslim, where are you going? If you die, he will tell you, I didn't know, I didn't know, if you ask me where I'm going, I'm going to heaven. And that's what I told the attorney general when they arrested me in Egypt. I told them, I will ask you three questions. If you answer them, I will go back to Islam. If you didn't, you need to read the Bible and take Christianity serious. He said, go ahead. I said the first question. does Allah love you in Islam? Immediately he said, I didn't know there is no love. There is no guarantee of God's love to any Muslim. So then the second question. If you die today, where are you going, hell or heaven? He said, I didn't know. And the third difference between Islam and Christianity Allah cannot save or change anyone. You know Allah. Coleman Hatta, you may be Allah will never change anybody. You change yourself. And this is in the Quran. Now. And I told that to the Attorney general. I said, Is Allah able to change you? He said, no, you change yourself. And then he asked me the same three questions. He told me is God loves you and Christianity said, of course God loves me. He came and he died for my sin. He told me, where are you going if you die? I said, I'm going to heaven and I can show it to you in your office. And he said, how? I said, I know who you are with your signature. I can be behind the sun. It's an expression meaning I will disappear. Even if you do that. I'm not afraid of you because I know where I'm heading. I'm heading to my father. And then he told me is God changing people in Christianity? I said, of course. That's why I am in your office. Why you arrested me for, you know, because I am a new person in Jesus Christ. Those are three major thing between Christianity and Quran. And there is a lot of other stuff. you need to get copy of this book. What is Islam? That's what I teach in seminaries and

Bible colleges. in in a lot of states and churches. And it will you not need to read the Koran. You not need to know everything about Islam. But this book it will summarize where is the verses you need to use in the Quran and how you can use it to let your Muslim friends start thinking, right? You know, like the woman verses, you know, woman in verse. three verse 34 in the Quran, book three, verse 34, you can beat your wife to death. That's in the Quran. Muslim. They try to translate this verse in English. in a soft way. Beat your wife gently. Yeah. If you read the Quran in English, the word gently, you know. And the one day I was in debate with in a mosque with Muslim imam and I have a group of Christians. And I told them, you know Quran permitted the man to beat his wife. He told me, no, no, no, no, he said, beat them gently. I told them, can you read it in the Arabic translation? Don't read it from the English translation. And he refused to read it in Arabic translation. And he told me the Prophet Muhammad said, beat your wife like you have a toothbrush, and you can do don't do that. Don't do that. You know, I told them the Arabic word it said. Jonah mean beater, you know, beta for disobedience and you can even lock her in a closet. You know that's most of American women. They didn't know. And European women, they never heard it. They think Islam is treating women gently. You know, if she make a mistake just like this, you know, and I told him, do you think in the time he mentioned, like, toothbrush, using toothbrush and do like this? I said, in the time of Muhammad, there is toothbrush to, you know, this verse saying, beat your wife. Anyway, that's few difference. If you read my book, you will get the whole different about Christianity and Islam versus and I really praise the Lord for how he gave me to put the book together. I got great report from Christian and missionaries and other people in churches. They start understanding what the Islamic teaching is.

All right. So that's a great segue. for the video, because, okay to to wrap it up, I want to let you know that there Daniel is in the process. I'll let him speak to this just for a minute before we show the video and conclude that they're making a movie of his story.

we praying for many years before that was my prayer. Lord I need to see my story in a big screen. And and the Lord brought the Angel studio. and also other producers of movie in Hollywood and right now we praying to do for chapter of the book to record them and professional way and send it to Angel studio for approval. And the minute they approved the story as big screen, the story they will take the, the story and they will do it themselves. And right now we are in process of praying for 25,000. to, do four chapters of the book. We will do the chapter how the arrested me and the interrogation was attorney General, and my son, when God raised him from the dead and how he treated me in solitary confinement, I was in

solitary confinement. No bed, no cover. I have a coffee can to use as my toilet. you can imagine. I didn't take a shower. I didn't brush my teeth for eight months. Those are the four main scenes we working on it to record them. And the cameras, you know, to to get good camera. Professional cameras. They are, you know, very, very expensive to rent. And we raised \$5,000. Now we're praying for \$20,000. And if God put in your heart to support the story, we will be grateful for the Lord and for you. And it's tax deduction. you can always write your check to open the gates. ministry.

All right, so before we go, we're going to play a video. And then while that's playing, Daniel and I will exit. The worship team will come back up and we'll conclude Daniel will be out by the information booth where he's got all his materials. If you want to talk with him. Sure. But I definitely want to end by praying for Daniel, because most of you know, the Daniel just lost his wife after a long battle with cancer, and he was a full year a caregiver. And he's getting back in the saddle emotionally and spiritually and physically and and so he's here after a big time loss and and he chose to be here on his birthday with us. So I want to pray for him, and I want him to know that we're his family. Thank you. I love you.

Yes. Yes.

Heavenly father, thank you so much for Daniel Lord as a person who is not a gifted evangelist, it thrills me to be in the presence of one. And so, Lord, it makes me thankful for all the people and the body of Christ that you use with the different gifts you give us. And Lord, I want to pray for an extra measure of boldness upon his life, as in many ways, you're you're by your design, pushing the reset button on him, and he's trying to figure out a new normal. I pray that you would help him grieve well, and that he could grieve with hope. We thank you that Janine's with you in heaven. Heaven is for real, right, Daniel. Amen. And, Lord Jesus, we thank you for sustaining him. And we pray Your Holy Spirit anoint him. And Lord, we want to pray that over this next season you'd do exceedingly, abundantly more than he could ask or think. And all of the ways that he ministers give him courage, give him vision. Lord, give him provision. And so pay whatever is needed. Lord, sell the sell the cattle or a few of them on to you. Have them on a thousand hills to pay for his movie, and let that minister to people. And Lord, give us, a bold faith. in Jesus name, Amen.

Amen.

Thank you.

Church.