Christian Muslim Report

Munayer Family News

Philippians 2—Humility

In recent months Musalaha meetings about the Middle East, in chapter 2, Philippians 2, and in chapter 3, Paul urges us to have the same spirit as Jesus, to be humble and to serve God. Philippians 2:5 is a great reminder of the importance of humility. Paul writes: "For His sake, and for the good of His cause, I want you to have the same attitude that Jesus had. I want you to learn from each other and to become like Jesus." 

Musalaha Ministry of Reconciliation

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What a unique privilege to accompany 20 young American Christians on the Musalaha retreat to the Middle East in April 2011. By Evan Thomas

In recent years Musalaha has developed a project to bring American and Israeli young adults together to understand the other side that they had been taught to hate. This project was an effort to work towards reconciliation and to explore the possibility of having relationships with those who have been considered ‘other’.

As such, our group was able to gain a first-hand understanding of what is means to be an Israeli or a Palestinian, to see or hear their stories, and in many ways shape the way we view our history and ourselves. They are a visual and virtual articulation of our collective identities.

We decided that by watching each other’s films, we would be able to learn more about each other’s culture, society, and history, which is a step towards healing relationship. As we came to know each other better, we could better help each other. By knowing each other, we perceived the others.

We also faced the challenge of trying to convey the different aspects the Middle East conflict and impossible situations. After these two films we watched Ajami, which is about Palestinians and Israelis, in which we also have a discussion about Israeli and Palestinian culture.

Both groups displayed interest in understanding the other side and with that a growing respect for each other. This activity was very interesting, and allowed each group to learn more about the different films. It made them think about what the other side was doing. They were interested in watching the films of each group, each group was able to show the other side that they had been taught to hate.

I have attended many of Musalaha’s follow up meeting for young adults. Around 30 of us met up at the Talitha Kumi Center for a weekend of viewing and discussing Israeli and Palestinian films. This was the first Musalaha film, and seemed a good way to follow up on the Biblical call (Proverbs 17:22) that we be friends to developing this in the desert in our community as a way of exploring the visual and conceptual aspects of the ‘human condition’ in light of our faith. We can easily look forward to developing this in the desert in a few months time.

The question of how we would sustain this process and to what extent a film could be viewed as symbolic and expressive of the aspects of ‘human condition’ in light of our faith. We can easily look forward to developing this in the desert in a few months time.

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