

Cultural Interview #3
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I was able to talk with my language helper Mustafa for my third cultural interview. He was very open to sharing information and eager to help. Mustafa moved to the United States in hope of a better life. He has some issues with his health and came in order to address the problem in the US. He is a practicing Muslim but unsure that this is the correct religion to follow. He struggles with this for a couple of reasons. The first is that he is married, but his religion is telling him that he can no longer be married. He has told his wife that he wants a divorce on three different occasions and that means that he can no longer be married. So right now they simply co-exist. Mustafa was also moved by the love and attention that he received from the Christian community when his wife was burned and placed into the hospital. Many Christians came and helped out the family. He wonders, where were the Muslims? He believes that the Muslim religion is hypocritical. When I heard this it scared me a little. I know how hypocritical people who call themselves Christians can be. However, so far he has felt that Christians practice what they preach.

Mustafa said the hardest thing for him to overcome when he arrived in the United States was the language. He said that getting over that hurdle is a major feat. He loves being here and has no desire to return to the Middle East. He considers this home and when he goes back for a visit longs to be back in the U.S.. He plans to go back to school this year and finish his education. He has a desire to work in some sort of medical profession helping children with disabilities. He is currently without a job and so is his wife. He did not complain and never took the conversation to the negative when addressing this issue. I wonder if most native-born Americans would complain and feel that they were owed if this was the case for them. I enjoyed his positive attitude and upbeat look at the future. I thought this might be a cultural attitude.

I enjoyed my conversation and have been able to have a few more encounters since. Mustafa is sending his children to the church and seems curious. I hope and pray that he will continue to bring them and the Holy Spirit will work in his life as well.