

## The Muslims Are Coming!

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Not really...they are already here! The next time you are out at the Hamilton Place Mall Area getting a cheeseburger you may want to go north on Gunbarrel Road to the Islamic Center of Chattanooga at 2533 and see their brand new building. Their website <http://www.chattislam.org/> will give you the full mission of the Islamic Center of Greater Chattanooga. According to USA Today the rise of mosques like this in America has soared 74% in the last decade (<http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/story/2012-02-29/islamic-worship-growth-us/53298792/1>). The actual numbers reported in the article are 1,209 in the year 2000 to 2,106 in 2010. As far as the actual number of Muslims in the United States at this point the article says, "...a 2010 survey on global Muslim population by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life found there were 2.6 million Muslims, including adults and children, in the country. And a 2011 survey by the same research group found 2.75 million Muslims, including 1.8 million adults." So, the Muslims aren't coming; they are already here!

Our government is not going to do anything about this.<sup>1</sup> "The following is a text of President Obama's prepared remarks to the Muslim world, delivered on June 4, 2009, as released by the White House."

I am honored to be in the timeless city of Cairo, and to be hosted by two remarkable institutions. For over a thousand years, Al-Azhar has stood as a beacon of Islamic learning, and for over a century, Cairo University has been a source of Egypt's advancement. Together, you represent the harmony between tradition and progress. I am grateful for your hospitality, and the hospitality of the people of Egypt. I am also proud to carry with me the goodwill of the American people, and a greeting of peace from Muslim communities in my country: assalaamu alaykum.

([http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/04/us/politics/04obama.text.html?pagewanted=all&\\_moc.semityn.www](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/04/us/politics/04obama.text.html?pagewanted=all&_moc.semityn.www))

Perhaps you'd like to know the meaning of our President's greeting to the Muslim world, "assalaamu alaykum." According to Islamic-Dictionary.com it means "Peace be unto you. It is a shortened form of the grand greeting: Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh (Peace be unto you and so may the mercy of Allah and His blessings). The greeting is recommended to be only used between Muslims" (<http://www.islamic-dictionary.com/index.php?word=assalamu+alaikum>).

Since we face such indifference toward religion in general and what the Bible teaches in particular, bear with me as I satirically try to address this situation with the question "What can we as Americans do to insure the continuing rise of the religion of Islam?"

Sit back and argue with the atheistic Freedom From Religion Foundation about our legal right to have a prayer before a football game here at UTC. Compromise and have a "moment of silence" instead of a prayer (Luke 18:1). Tie up the court system all the way to the Supreme

Court with such foolishness. Win the victory after long expensive effort, and then “Play Ball!” And, while we’re distracted with this “the Muslims are coming!”

Proliferate the divisions among those calling themselves Christians; blur New Testament teaching on the subject of the church of Christ beyond recognition. Persist in refusing to “come, let us reason together” on the subject of the one body, the church (Isa. 1:18; Eph. 4:4). Ignore the prayer of Christ Himself for unity among all professed believers in Him (John 17:20-23). And, while doggedly remaining divided we become convinced “there’s nothing we can do about it” rest assured “the Muslims are coming!”

Postpone the personal zeal and dedication to Christ expressed by labor in his vineyard, the church, for some indefinite, undetermined point in the uncertain future once all our “felt needs” are met (John 15:1-8; 2 Cor. 6:2). And, know that while the Lord’s people are drifting in and out of services some only appearing at the meeting house 2 or 3 times a year that “the Muslims are coming!”

The Muslims are not coming...*they are already here!*

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<sup>1</sup>Our duly elected governing officials struggle in vain to even mitigate the illegal immigrant problem—and that for the most part is people earnestly desiring to come to this country to work! Respectfully, they are equipped with neither the conviction nor the desire to deal with a fourteen hundred year old false religion with a long history of invasion and plunder at the point of the sword if necessary. Shalom. (“Shalom” is a Hebrew greeting and farewell meaning “peace”).