

The first evening of Ramadan

Sept. 23, 2006

In many places around the world Muslims will be looking to the heavens this evening. If they can see the crescent moon, which signals the beginning of the month of Ramadan, they will rise early to eat their breakfast before the sun rises. Afterwards they will not eat or drink till nightfall. This will be their daily experience during the next 30 days.



A Testimony from Central Asia

An agreement was made between Sarah, a Western missionary, and her local Muslim friend, Nazira, to follow the fast of Ramadan together. For both of them it would be their first long fast, so they decided to use their lunch-times to read from the book of Psalms and to watch segments of the Jesus film. During the 30 days of Ramadan, Sarah saw God work in Nazira's heart, as the verses of Psalms began to make a profound effect on her. As they drew closer together through prayer and sharing their thoughts, Sarah realized that Nazira's understanding of God's love and grace was growing rapidly.

On the last day of Ramadan, Nazira visited her missionary friend to share some amazing news: during the night she had seen a vision. In her dream she had been reading the Bible when a snake appeared to her and began to say, "Don't worry. I'm not going to hurt you. I just want to enter you through your navel." At this point in the vision Nazira began to scream "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!" Hearing this, the snake cried out, "Is that you, Jesus?" and with that the snake's head was crushed as if it had been made of paper.

As Nazira shared her vision, Sarah and some other believers had an easy task to lead their dear friend to Christ. Nazira was amazed as she heard the words of Genesis 3:15, which is the first biblical promise of Jesus coming and crushing Satan's head. It was the very thing she had seen in her dream. Within a month of Nazira's conversion, her husband joined her newly-found faith. Since then, this couple and their two children have become cornerstones of an emerging Uzbek church in their city. Despite their daily struggle with unemployment and poverty, they have kept a firm walk with the Lord.

