

## Muslim Universities in India



The evolving world of Islamic universities has become a major challenge for Christians. The mission of Islamic education is to establish Qur'anic values and promote Islamic rule and influence worldwide through university community life and studies.

The Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) is the largest Muslim University in Delhi with 10,400 students and over 1,500 faculty and staff. JMI offers bachelors and masters degrees and PhDs in 32 specialized departments, with research centers partnering with universities around the world. Besides Indian Muslims, international students attend from 38 nations in the Middle East, Africa, Central and South Asia.

### Islam explained

*A "madrasah" is the name of the traditional Islamic school for children and youth. Such schools have generally centered their instruction around the memorisation of the Qur'an in Arabic.*

The Jamia Markazu University near Calicut has recently become one of the major cultural and educational institutions in Southwest India. According to the university's web site, "Its influence reaches far beyond the walls of communal and social barriers. Its work strengthens the moral character of the Muslim society. By developing the leadership capacities of leaders and the Muslim community, Jamia Markaz directly affects the cities, towns and even the rural areas ... Armed with renewed vigour and Islamic spirit, Markaz students return to the society with a new wholeness, a new sense of responsibility and practical skills to bring about a moral revolution."

Many Indian Muslim students and university personnel are involved in or support the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) which is officially illegal. This group actively seeks to orient Indian society toward Islamic values in place of Hinduism and secularism. The movement encourages living according to the Qur'an, the propagation of Islam and jihad for the cause of Islam. SIMI and groups like them play a significant role in propagating fundamentalist Islam worldwide.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ *Pray that Muslim students and staff will have opportunities to meet Christians with godly lifestyles and servant attitudes.*
- ▶ *Pray for students to be open to the Gospel and become followers of Jesus. May they plant churches among their own people when they go home after their studies.*
- ▶ *Pray for God's wisdom for effective approaches and partnerships among those witnessing to Muslim university students and staff.*