

## **THE TREASURE OF ALL TREASURES**

In 1927, Salwa, a woman of an influential Muslim family, had a remarkable “vision.” It was a long dream where she seemed to be taken to Saudi Arabia, to Jerusalem, to Egypt, and then finally back to her own land and out to the middle of a desert area not far from her home. This destination was a little beyond her village at a spot dedicated by her ancestors hundreds of years before as a place of prayer and worship. There is neither building nor shrine there, but the ground is kept clean and free of growth and debris. It is there that the founding father of her people had instructed them to pray in times of great trouble or famine. It’s a place for their tribe to gather and come close to God as they remember His mighty acts of leading them in the past. There the progenitor of their branch of the tribe had been buried nearly 500 years before.

As Salwa descended from her long vision-journey to this sacred place, she saw a little one-room building. Curious, she stepped inside. There she saw an impressive man dressed in shining white garments with His back toward her. Without turning around, he said, “Greetings, Salwa,” and then he handed her a book. The glorious being said, “Take this; it is the treasure of all treasures!” With this the vision was over. As Salwa related her dream long ago, it was understood by everyone that the book that she had seen was the Bible.

Years later when her family group moved from their tribal area to one of the major cities of the country, they sent a representative to the Catholic Church requesting a Bible. Upon receiving the Bible, Salwa’s son, who by inheritance had become the sheikh of his people, showed it to his mother. Salwa excitedly affirmed that this was the very book that had been placed in her hands by the Man in White in her dream of 1927. This dream is what has led her family, her clan, and now even many of her tribe of several hundred thousand to believe in the Bible.

Back then her dream had been the talk of the villagers. To the amazement of her descendants that are the present spiritual leaders of their people and committed Adventist believers conducting “insider ministry,” some of the older folk still remember the story of that strange dream that their grandmother had.

In December 2011 an elderly gentleman in his eighties approached them saying, “Remember the dream of your grandmother in which the Man in White said ‘Take this book. It is the treasure of all treasures.’” When they nodded in affirmation, he continued, “I believe that the book that Salwa saw many years ago is the Bible, and it is the book of God! I really want to have one of those precious books,” he went on. “It’s not just for me, but to share with my sons who will understand it better than this old man. Could you please help me to get one?” They soon realized that the man himself could not read, but he was eager for his family to be able to have it.

In this country where the Bible is considered a corrupt book, where many have been burned and it has now been banned by law, they are only given to those who are trusted to treasure the message and use it wisely. The old man insisted so strongly that he was given a copy. He shared his new treasure with great enthusiasm with his family. Now the tribal spiritual leader, and our brother in the faith, is studying with seven men and five women of the family plus their children.

This elderly gentleman represents 23,000 families that have received Bibles in the last couple of years. Each family represents an average of seven individuals. This means that now in this closed Muslim country around 160,000 persons have had access to the Word of God. Every day additional people are earnestly requesting Bibles. They are often read through cover to cover in the span of just a week or two. I wish you could see the eagerness of the people to read God's Word that is considered to be the "treasure of all treasures."

Please join us in prayer for the family of this elderly gentleman and that the influence of Salwa's long-ago dream will continue to nurture a harvest of souls for God's kingdom. nPraxis is in constant need of support for Bibles in a number of languages and in various countries.

*Names and minor details have been changed to protect this special ministry.*



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P.O. Box 54

Ooltewah, TN 37363

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