

Seminar Schedule

- 8:00-8:45 a.m. Registration (*Sihler Auditorium*)
- 8:45-9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 9:00-10:15 a.m. Muhammad and the Origins of Islam—Dr. Samuel Samson
- 10:15-10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:30-11:45 a.m. A Christian Response to the Challenge of Islam
—Mr. Sam Shamoun
- 11:45-12:45 p.m. Lunch (*Katherine Luther Dining Hall*)
- 1:00-2:15 p.m. Political Islam Today
(*Sihler Auditorium*)
—Dr. Anders Strindberg
- 2:15-3:15 p.m. Muslims and the Gospel
—Rev. Karim Bidaoui
- 3:15-3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:30-4:00 p.m. Questions and Answers with Panel
- 4:00-4:30 p.m. The Future of Christian and Muslim Relations
—Dr. Adam S. Francisco
- 4:30 p.m. Closing



Concordia Theological Seminary
6600 N. Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4996



Christians and the Challenge of Islam

April 19, 2008

A seminar on Islam led by:

Dr. Adam S. Francisco

*Guest Professor, Historical Theology, Concordia
Theological Seminary*

and a panel of experts:

**Rev. Karim Bidaoui, Rev. Dr. Samuel Samson,
Mr. Sam Shamoun, and Dr. Anders Strindberg**



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Seminar Information

This day-long seminar will focus on the following pertinent issues:

- ✘ Muhammad and the Origins of Islam
- ✘ A Christian Response to the Challenge of Islam
- ✘ Political Islam Today
- ✘ Muslims and the Gospel

Seminar attendees will have plenty of opportunities to interact with our panel of experts as well as each other as we come together to think through the challenge of Islam.

Seminar Fee:

- ✘ \$50 (includes lunch and refreshments)

Registration:

Mail the completed form below to: Concordia Theological Seminary, Attn: Carrie O'Donnell, 6600 North Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46825. Or you may call: 1-877-287-4338, ext. 2266, e-mail: retreats@ctsfw.edu, or visit our website: www.ctsfw.edu/events/retreat

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For more information, check our website at

www.ctsfw.edu,

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e-mail retreats@ctsfw.edu

Seminar Speakers

■ **Rev. Karim Baidaoui**

Born to a Jewish mother and a Muslim father in Morocco, Rev. Baidaoui emigrated to the United States where he met his wife, a member of the LCMS. In 1991, he was baptized into the Christian faith. Rev. Baidaoui completed his seminary training at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, in May 2005. He was then ordained and installed as a missionary-at-large in the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Rev. Baidaoui and his wife Suzy have three children and live near Austin, Texas.

■ **Dr. Adam S. Francisco, D.Phil.**

Adam Francisco graduated from Concordia University (Irvine, California) with the M.A. in Theology (2001). Afterwards he moved to England where, in addition to pursuing further research in Christian theology, he studied Arabic and Islamic theology at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. He earned both the M.St. (2003) and D.Phil. (2006) for his work in the history of Christian-Muslim relations at the University of Oxford. Dr. Francisco was also the Albin Salton Fellow at the University of London from 2004-2005. He then joined the History Department of Concordia College (Bronxville, New York) until his recent appointment as Guest Professor of Historical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, where he teaches courses on Islam in the seminary's Ph.D. program. Dr. Francisco's recent publications include *Theologia et Apologia: Essays in Reformation Theology and Its Defense* and *Martin Luther and Islam*.

■ **Rev. Dr. Samuel Samson**

Dr. Samson's experience is long and varied. A native of Pakistan, Dr. Samson eventually immigrated to and became a citizen of the United States in 2002. He has since received a Master's degree from Reformed Theological Seminary (North Carolina) and a Doctorate in Religious Education (D.R.E.) from Cumberland University (North Carolina) in 2005. Currently, he pastors an Indian-Pakistani congregation in the Atlantic District of the LCMS. As founding president of Encountering Islam Christian Ministry, he also engages the Muslim population of New York in local television broadcasts and public forums. His forthcoming publications include the book *Bitter Truths of Islam*.

■ **Mr. Sam Shamoun**

Mr. Sam Shamoun was born in Kuwait, though raised largely in the U.S. in a Christian home. During his adolescent years, Mr. Shamoun's faith was confronted by and challenged with the teachings of Islam as the one true religion. This encounter shook Mr. Shamoun and thus began his intense study of Scripture especially in relevance to Muslim objections. Considered by scholars and theologians to be an authority on the teachings of Islam as well as Christianity, Mr. Shamoun currently writes for one of the world's most highly recognized websites challenging the teachings of Islam: www.answering-islam.org. In addition to the countless articles he has written as a key staff contributor to the website, Mr. Shamoun lectures around the country and has engaged in debates nationwide as an apologist addressing many of the common objections and obstacles presented by Islam against the Christian faith.

■ **Dr. Anders Strindberg, Ph.D.**

Dr. Anders Strindberg, specializing in Middle East security and Islamism, teaches in the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California. He holds an M.A. in Philosophy and International Relations (1997) and a Ph.D. in International Relations (2001), both from St. Andrews University in Scotland. He has taught and done research work at Damascus University and Princeton, and served as United Nations Headquarters correspondent for *Jane's Intelligence Review* 2001-2006. He is currently studying toward an M.Div. at St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary in New York, and serves as a parochial deacon in the Atlantic District of the LCMS.

