

Why allow a mosque at Ground Zero?

excerpted from the August 2010 edition of *Christian Crusade Newspaper*

now in our 58th year of publication ~ www.ChristianCrusade.com

Billy James Hargis II, publisher ~ Keith Wilkerson, managing editor

Why would militant Muslims want to build a 12-story mosque at New York City's "Ground Zero"?

Indeed, why would the Islamic Brotherhood want to build a cultural center at the site of the worst loss of life during the September 11, 2001 Islamist terrorist attacks on America?

Could it be for the same reason that Muslims have built mosques on the site of their greatest victories throughout history? The al-Aqsa Mosque sits squarely atop Jerusalem's Temple Mount – where Israel does not dare remove it.

One of the largest mosques in the world is at the site of one of Christendom's most historic defeats where Constantinople and Asia Minor fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

The Aya Sofya Mosque in what is now Istanbul, Turkey, was once St. Sofia's Church, the largest cathedral in the world for nearly 1,000 years.

In Damascus, where Saul of Tarsus became Paul the Apostle, today's Umayyad Mosque is on the site of what was, before the Islamic conquest, the Church of St. John the Baptist.

So, why now would Feisal Abdul Rauf want to build a \$100 million mosque at Ground Zero? He is the imam behind what is called the "Cordoba Initiative" to build a mosque at the site where nearly 3,000 Americans were killed by jihadists.

"He is also the author of a book called *What's Right with Islam Is What's Right with America*," writes author Andrew C. McCarthy. "But the book hasn't always been called that. It was called quite something else for non-English-speaking audiences. In Malaysia, it was published as *A Call to Prayer from the World Trade Center Rubble: Islamic Dawa in the Heart of America Post-9/11*."

Interestingly enough, a "special, non-commercial edition" of the book was produced with Rauf's cooperation, by two American agencies of the Muslim Brotherhood – the Islamic Society of North America and the International Institute of Islamic Thought.

Both groups, notes McCarthy, were cited by the Justice Department as unindicted co-conspirators in a crucial terrorism-financing case involving the channeling of tens of millions of dollars to Hamas through an outfit called the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development. For the last 15 years, Hamas has been a designated terrorist organization under U.S. law.

McCarthy is a senior fellow at the National Review Institute and the author of a number of bestselling books, including *The Grand Jihad: How Islam and the Left Sabotage America*.

The Ground Zero mosque has been denounced by a variety of conservative figures, including Sarah Palin, Michael Reagan, Bill O'Reilly, Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh. In the *Wall Street Journal*, Mary Lu Carnevale quoted businessman Carl Paladino, declaring: "It's no different than Japan asking to build a memorial to kamikaze pilots next to the *USS Arizona* in Pearl Harbor."

"That remark," noted Carnevale, "prompted New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who supports the center, to pointedly say: "This city was built on openness and tolerance and we're not walking away from it."

Luisita Lopez Torregrosa, on the *Politics Daily* website, pointed out that, “On the one side are those who believe the United States closed its eyes for too long to the very real threat of global Islamic radicalism and the murderous attacks that Muslim terrorists perpetrate around the world. Why should we pretend that we could ever find common ground with such people or be allies to nations that export such ideology while they prevent the construction of a single temple or church on their own lands, while they send mullahs, mosques and hate-filled textbooks to ours?”

“On the other hand,” she continues, “are those who believe that America’s very strength is that we welcome all faiths and creeds and peoples; that, yes, you can build a mosque – many mosques – in New York, even near the site of a terrorist tragedy and that this doesn’t weaken our resolve or our image in the world. It strengthens them.”

In another opinion piece, Bret Stevens wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*: “Opponents argue that building the center so close to Ground Zero is an insult to the memory of the victims of 9/11. Germany has spent six decades in conspicuous and mainly sincere atonement for Nazi crimes. But it surely has no plans to showcase the tolerant society it has become by building a cultural center down the road from Auschwitz. Japan is no doubt equally disinclined to finance a Shinto shrine in the vicinity of the Pearl Harbor memorial.”

Claiming supremacy

“In 2002, I lived in el Obied, Sudan, as part of an international peace monitoring effort in the Nuba Mountains,” writes Sandy Daze. “El Obied is either the second or third largest city in Sudan after Khartoum. The Catholic Church is beautiful and was built by the Comboni Order in 1961.

“In the 1990s immediately across the street from this Church, Saudi money funded the building of a mosque. All the residents knew that the mosque was placed specifically in that position as a counter to, of course, the church.

“Lest there be any doubt, the mosque minarets were taller than the church bell steeple. The significance of what the Saudis were declaring was not lost on anyone.

“As to the mosque at Ground Zero, there can be no doubt that this is an effort to claim supremacy over that land. It must be stopped. If completed what they will be saying is, ‘Islamic warriors destroyed the World Trade Center temple of your capitalism. We have built our mosque on top of those ashes. We are stronger than you. Submit.’”

The project is highly offensive, says Pamela Geller, executive director of Stop Islamization of America. “People need to know history in order to understand Islam and what they are really out to achieve,” she says. “At its height, the Islamic Empire covered more of the earth than the Roman Empire.

“The Ottoman Empire ended in 1924 and the Muslim Brotherhood came about only four years later. This is no coincidence; it was established to bring back the world domination that Islam once had.”

Aside from Islam conquering a huge part of the world, she points out “Islam also conquered most of Spain and held onto it until 1248.”

It controlled parts of Spain until 1492 when the Muslim invaders were finally thrown out by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, the same monarchs who financed Christopher Columbus’ voyages that opened up the New World.

The name of the organization planning the New York City mosque, she notes, is the “Cordoba Initiative.”

“This name itself is a full affront to Americans,” writes Geller. “Cordoba was the seat of the Islamic Caliphate that ruled Spain and the name is often used today by Islamic militants when recalling the glory of the Islamic Empire from the years when they occupied Spain.” The great mosque of Cordoba was built atop Spain’s grandest Cathedral. It was done to emphasize who had won the war.

Islam is usually spread by conquest, not persuasion. The conquered people either submit and become Muslim or die. Whenever conquest cannot be accomplished through warfare, notes McCarthy, Islam is spread by “dawa.”

“Dawa is proselytism,” explains McCarthy, “but not involving only spiritual elements – for Islam is not merely a religion and spiritual elements are just a small part of its doctrine. In truth, Islam is a comprehensive political, social and economic system with its own authoritarian legal framework, *shari’a*, which aspires to govern all aspects of life.”

Shari’a is Islamic law, which McCarthy explains, rejects core tenets of American constitutional democracy.

“For example,” notes McCarthy: “individual liberty, freedom of conscience, freedom to govern ourselves irrespective of any theocratic code, equality of men and women, equality of Muslims and non-Muslims and economic liberty, including the uses of private property.

“In Islam, owners hold property only as custodians for the *umma*, the universal Muslim nation, and are beholden to the Islamic state regarding its use.”

Shari’a prohibits the preaching of creeds other than Islam or turning away from Islam.

Its penalties are extreme, including death sentences for apostates and adulterers.

Slavery is legal!

“This is an insult to America and this is an insult to New Yorkers,” writes Simon Deng, who as a boy was a slave in Sudan. He is now an American citizen living in New York. “I’m outraged. I’m so mad and upset because of the insult to those who died here.

“The policy of Islamization took me to being a slave when I was nine years old. It slaughtered 3 million of my fellow Christians and left 7 million as refugees.

“In the state that I came from in southern Sudan, there used to be one mosque. I was in Sudan a month ago. There are 113 mosques. We, the New Yorkers, have to stand shoulder to shoulder and stop this mosque.”

There are still open slave markets in Sudan’s cities today. At age 14 Deng escaped. Due to pressure from western nations, some Islamic countries have outlawed slavery recently: Qatar in 1952, Yemen and Saudi Arabia in 1962, Mauritania in 1980, but slavery continues in a number of Muslim countries under shari’a law.

“The purpose of dawa,” writes McCarthy, “is to implement, spread and defend shari’a.”

Scholar Robert Spencer refers to dawa as “stealth jihad,” the advancement of the shari’a agenda through means other than violence and agents other than terrorists. These include extortion, cultivation of sympathizers in the media and the universities, exploitation of the legal system, ending religious liberty and infiltrating political systems.

“Yusuf Qaradawi, the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood and the world’s most influential Islamic cleric,” writes McCarthy, “boldly promises that Islam will ‘conquer America’ and Europe through dawa.”

According to McCarthy, there is no coincidence that the Ground Zero mosque is being planned where it is. “Like most Muslims,” says McCarthy, “Rauf regards Qaradawi as a guide and

referred to him in 2001 as ‘the most well-known legal authority in the whole Muslim world today.’”

Qaradawi has a weekly program broadcast worldwide on the Muslim news channel Al Jazeera that is viewed by millions. His popular website, Islam Online, is visited by millions more each week.

“His rabble-rousing,” writes McCarthy, “was a prime cause of the deadly global rioting by Muslims when an obscure Danish newspaper published cartoon depictions of Mohammed. Qaradawi regards the United States as the enemy of Islam. He has urged that Muslims ‘Fight the American military if we can and if we cannot, we should fight the U.S. economically and politically.’”

“In 2004, he issued a *fatwa* calling for Muslims to kill Americans in Iraq. A leading champion of Hamas, he has issued similar approvals of suicide bombings. He decreed that Muslims must donate money to ‘support Palestinians fighting occupation. If we can’t carry out acts of jihad ourselves, we at least should support and prop up the mujahideen financially and morally.’”

Andrew Bostom noted in a recent *New York Post* column that Rauf supports these same positions.

“The Ground Zero project to erect a monument to shari’a overlooking the crater where the World Trade Center once stood and where thousands were slaughtered,” concludes McCarthy, “is not a test of America’s commitment to religious liberty. America already has thousands of mosques and Islamic centers, including scores in the New York area – though Islam does not allow non-Muslims even to enter its crown-jewel cities of Mecca and Medina, much less to build churches or synagogues.”

Indeed, when the U.S. military was defending Saudi Arabia in Operation Desert Storm, Christian chaplains were required to remove crosses from their lapels and were barred from wearing crucifix pendants or necklaces. No, this is no test of our open-mindedness.

“The Ground Zero project is a test of America’s resolve,” concludes McCarthy, “to face down a civilizational jihad that aims, in the words of its leaders, to destroy us from within.”

The Cordoba Initiative plans to dedicate the Ground Zero mosque on September 11, 2011, the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America.