

SECTION 2: SHAHADAH: SUPPORTING NEW MUSLIMS

Make the Invitation

The final stage in your dawah conversation (if it reaches this stage), is to formally invite them to Islam. Again, sincerity is key – be sincere in asking them if they want to accept Islam.

Remember, whether they do or not, is not in your hands. Guidance is in the hands of Allah. So, make the invitation. It can be as simple as *“David, after having this discussion on Islam, and now you know much more about this religion, I’d like to know your thoughts. Does it make sense to you? Does it make more sense than what you currently believe in? If it does, then I would sincerely ask you to think about it and I invite you to accept Islam as your religion and way of life”*

If they don’t accept, don’t think your dawah ends there. Give them space and time. Inform them of your local dawah organization or masjid if they have any follow-up questions. If they do accept, then be sure to have a support system in place! You must be loving and genuinely care for your new brother or sister and become a support mechanism for them. Love goes a long way...all the way to jannah. As the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) told us *““You will not enter Paradise until you (truly) believe, and you will not (truly) believe until you love one another.”* (Muslim)

Developing New Muslims

It is highly important that everyone involved in dawah understands the following: **dawah is not only to call to Islam, but it is also to establish a support system for those that accept Islam.**

Based on a significant amount of cases, there seems to be an incorrect assumption made about dawah and new Muslim support, as if they are two separate entities. That is, dawah is something that is very active – both nationally and internationally – with thousands of people coming to Islam every year; however, there is not an effective follow-up system or plan for new Muslims.

From the little research that has been done on this topic, the reality is that: Between 40-50% of converts are not remaining upon Islam or not becoming practising Muslims. This means little importance is placed on developing new Muslims or a lack of understanding of what developing new Muslim entails.

DISCUSSION

After a lengthy discussion with David and after you invite him to accept Islam, David agrees and is ready to take the shahadah. Alhamdulillah – he is now a Muslim!

Now it is time to think about your new Muslim plan for David. Put a plan in place to help David on his new journey as a Muslim. Also consider what type of advice you would give him.



