



## ICRD Monthly Update

July 15, 2015

### ICRD Interfaith Initiative Gathers Momentum

On June 14-15, two members of ICRD's **Interfaith Leadership Network** (launched last year to promote cooperation among American and Pakistani religious leaders in addressing issues of intolerance in their respective countries) facilitated a follow-up program in Doha, Qatar that brought together Muslim and Christian clergy from both countries to develop an action plan for future cooperation.



The organizers of the meeting, Pastor Bob Roberts from Northwood Church in Dallas and Imam Mohamed Magid from the Adams Center in Virginia, expressed the need for "**interfaith action**" as the next step **beyond interfaith dialogue**. The meetings were thus geared toward tangible outcomes. For example, the American participants agreed to form a permanent organization in the United States that will: (1) engage the media and the public with a unified message of interfaith cooperation between Evangelical Christians and Muslims to counter perceptions of enmity between the two faiths, (2) respond to anti-Muslim provocations with positive initiatives to promote friendship, and (3) hold teambuilding retreats for Evangelical pastors and Muslim imams in 10 American cities to lay the groundwork for additional initiatives, including the establishment of a local chapter in each state.

*"We're dealing with a spiritual problem, not just a political problem...We have to do something to solve it ourselves in humility before God and ask for wisdom...Satan is the enemy, not each other."  
American Evangelical pastor*

On the Pakistani side, the participants invited a delegation of American religious leaders to actively engage in community projects in their country as a step toward helping to dispel the anti-American sentiment that currently prevails. Toward this same end, some participants also suggested that selected Pakistani religious figures from the more radical areas of the country be invited to visit the United States so they can bring back more balanced impressions.

*“In Pakistan, we don’t always realize the suffering our  
Pakistani Christian brothers and sisters are going  
through, but this conference will motivate us to go back  
and work harder to address this.”  
Pakistani Muslim cleric*

The members of this Network should feel justifiably proud of the speed and resolve with which they are attempting to make a positive difference.

With best wishes,



Douglas Johnston  
President, ICRD



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