



The Roe's Hatch

November 24, 2015



Dear Partner,

"If I make this decision, it will change everything about my life." "Auria's" eyes pleaded with mine, and I get it. It's not an easy decision.

I'd just met her an hour before, at the City College of New York, and I was glad that out of all the students sitting around in this rotunda area, for some reason I'd walked up to her. She had her head covered and maybe that's why; I've always been drawn to Muslims and Middle Eastern culture. The conversation started like every other I've had with a Muslim: polite, respectful, hospitable. Auria told me a bit about her childhood, growing up in Saudi Arabia, then recently moving to NYC. She told me about her faith and, as a devout Muslim, she knew it well.

Her eyes lit up a little as we talked about Jesus. Like most Muslims, Auria believes that He lived, that He was a good teacher and even a prophet. I asked Auria if she knew who Jesus claimed to be and she said yes, He claimed to be the Son of God.

"Is He the Son of God?" I asked her.

"A Muslim," she answered, "would say no, because there is only one God, Allah, and that is why He sent, in our opinion, an even greater Prophet, Mohammed."

After we talked about Mohammed for a bit, we went back to talking about Jesus and the claims He made about Himself. I asked her if she thought He was lying about being God or if He was delusional. She didn't want to say yes to either of those. We talked about some of the evidence of His life, that He was honest and His life was consistent. She agreed with me that He was a good man, even a prophet. Then I asked her to consider for a moment that Jesus really is who He claimed to be and asked if I could share a little of my faith journey with her. She agreed and I was able to tell her how a person can place their trust in Christ as the payment for their sin. I was surprised when her eyes filled with tears.

"You are not the first person to tell me this," she said. "In fact, just recently several people have talked with me about Jesus and...I feel like He is pursuing me." She choked up at this point.

"It makes sense in my head...and in my heart...But if I make this decision it will change everything about my life."

Every family member and every friend Auria has is a Muslim. Traditionally, when a Muslim comes to faith in Christ, he or she is cut off from the entire family, as if they no longer exist. Or worse. I didn't press any more and she said she had to go meet a friend for lunch.

I was just sitting there praying for Auria when 2-3 minutes later she returned and asked me if I'd come upstairs and talk more about this with her friend from Bangladesh. They didn't have much time before class, but they were very engaged as I again went through a little booklet explaining to these two young Muslim women how they can have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

I don't know what the future holds for these two women, but I was blessed to see God at work in their hearts in the heart of the Big Apple.

Thank you for all you do to help us bring the Good News of Jesus to hungry college students near or far,

Scott & Bonnie Roe



Scott and I were so blessed to be able to join other Missional Team Leaders from around the Upper Midwest Region in New York City! Just as we strive to send missionaries to all nations, we are also motivated to send workers to meet the needs of towns and cities in America, including the largest. NYC is a Cru priority that is gaining momentum, and staff and students from Madison and beyond have already started to respond and move to this needy and very strategic area.

We had so much fun exploring different campuses and sections of the city. What a melting pot of different people and cultures and it was incredible to see and experience it firsthand. We extended our stay a few days for some vacation time as a couple, while Scott's mom and dad graciously came to stay with our kids and get through our crazy routine. We definitely seem to have entered the taxi driver stage!

Praise and Prayer Requests:

- Praise the Lord for healthy and happy kids who love God and each other...most days ;)
- Praise the Lord that we have added a new part-time member to our team this past month. And another part-time staff member married over the weekend and it looks like they will join full-time staff with Cru this summer and hopefully return to Madison!
- Please pray that the darkness and uncertainty of this world will draw lost students to Christ like moths to a bright light.
- Please pray for us, that we will love each other well, raise our kids with wisdom and integrity, and know how to best invest our time to help turn lost students into Christ-centered laborers. We've never felt more called than now.