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Sunday, April 15, 2018  
Did You Know?

## REACH

I've been sitting in on a wonderful class on befriending Muslims, taught by our resident pastor-missionary Don McIsaac. In that class, I've learned many new things about Islam. As a dog lover, I never knew that Muslims consider dogs to be very unclean animals. I found out that Muslim hospitality is out of this world. You have to ask at least three times for permission to leave before they allow you to leave, not as a captive prisoner, but they really want to extend their welcome to you. It's similar to Korean culture where we have to insist on a person receiving or refusing something before they agree. I learned that Muslims are the second largest religion in Canada after Christianity. I learned that you have to take off your shoes when you enter their homes. In some home gatherings, the men and women will be separated. When you arrive at the home of a Muslim, you are never to come early or even on time, but a little bit late. A Muslim would be taken back by all the writing that we do in our Bibles, which is something we strongly encourage. Like Hindus, Muslims also do not eat with their left hand. That's the "you-know-what" hand. Never offer alcohol or pork products to your Muslim guest. Expect to be asked personal questions like how much you make, how much you paid for you home, and things like that and there are so many other cultural lessons that we've learned. On top of that, there are tons of theological distinctives and differences between our two religions.

What about atheism? Agnosticism is often seen as a softer view of atheism. Hard core atheists might consider agnostics as sell-outs. Did you know that atheism has no rational defense or explanation for morality? Some atheist scholars honestly confess that that is the case. They have no rational reason why one morality should be considered better than another. Did you know that not every atheist is angry? Only Richard Dawkins -- just kidding. But, seriously, this is a misconception. Did you know that atheists often feel like a minority in society? This makes sense because much of the West and almost the entire East is very religious. Did you know that the atheistic worldview cannot prove the non-existence of God?

As many of you already know, Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world and in our country. In addition, secularism (also known as atheism) is on the rise, too. Part of our mandate, to love our neighbor as ourselves, is to understand their worldview. By understanding their worldview, we come to understand them and we'll also find a better way to share the Christian worldview, i.e. the Gospel, with them. That's why we're hosting the REACH conference. Register for the conference today (at [coahtoronto.com](http://coahtoronto.com)) and become equipped.

Soli Deo Gloria.  
*Pastor Peter*