UNEQUALLY YOKED

She’s Muslim, I thought as my eyes caught sight of the veiled woman in line ahead of me. Probably an immigrant.

But when I heard her speak to the checkout lady, I realized that she had a very distinct American accent. And when I got a better look at her, I saw she had blue eyes and wisps of blonde hair had escaped her veil.

Why? I pondered. Having studied Islam for many years and knowing its teachings concerning women, I cannot understand why American women marry Muslim men. Most have no idea what they are getting into, and few even try to learn about the lifestyle, culture and teachings they will be expected to accept.

Though an estimated 7,000 marriages between American women and Muslim men take place each year, statistics now show that about 80 percent of them will end in bitter divorces.

Marcia was raised in a Christian home and had accepted Christ as her Savior at an early age. In her early 20s, she had married a “born-again” believer who turned out to be very abusive. After their divorce, a bitter Marcia blamed God for the situation.

In a backslidden condition, Marcia went to work at a hospital. She clearly remembers the day she met “the man of her dreams.”

“It was just before noon and I was standing by the nurse’s station when my thoughts were interrupted by a voice telling the charge nurse he needed to take a few minutes off for noon prayer. When I looked up, the man who spoke was just a few feet away. He had an accent and his mannerisms were rather different. Though I had been a Christian all my life, I had never known anyone who asked for prayer time, so his request impressed me a great deal.

“For the next few weeks he was assigned to me for training. As we worked together I really enjoyed his good sense of humor and his charming manners. Not once did I hear him use profanity or show disrespect to anyone. He was working to sup-
Male-Female Relationships According to the Qur’an and the Hadith

- Men are superior to women with greater rights and liabilities because they must protect and provide for their wives (Qur’an, Surah 2:228; 4:34).
- Women are deficient in intelligence, gratitude, and religion (Hadith Sahih al-Bukhari).
- Muslim men may marry women from the “People of the Book” (a Jewess or a Christian), but not an idolatress or atheist. A Muslim woman may marry only a Muslim (Surah 5:5; 2:221).
- A man may marry up to four women, provided he treats them equally, and he can have sex with an unlimited number of slave girls (Surah 4:3).
- When women go outside their homes, it delights the devil (Hadith Ihy’a Ulom ed-Din).
- A husband who fears rebelliousness in his wife must admonish her first. If that does not work, he has the right to desert her sexually. If that does not work, he may beat her (Surah 4:34).
- A daughter inherits half of what would come to her brother (Surah 4:11).
- The witness of two women is equal to the witness of one man (Surah 2:282).
- Women must wear hijabs (veils or coverings) to protect not only their own chastity but the chastity of men who might see them (Hadith by Muhammed Sa’id Ramadan al-Buti).
- A husband’s rights over his wife are divine (Hadith Mishkat al-Masabih).
- The majority of women will go to hell (Hadith No. 33 and 301).

port his education plans, and had great love for the elderly. He always took time to listen to them.

“He spoke of God and his faith without any fear of public opinion, and shared with me about life and his family in the Middle East. I could tell he was from a good, close and loving family with a high sense of moral values.

“As time passed, I found myself drawn to his piercing dark brown eyes, mannerism and the way he called my name. He was an attractive man who believed in family and God, and he had a great sense of morality. I was so attracted to him I didn’t even take time to learn more about Islam. He fit the profile of a good, godly man that my parents had always tried to paint in my mind. He never smoked, drank or cursed. He was pro-life and anti-divorce and always said, ‘God willing (Insha’Allah).’

“Before we could enter a deeper relationship, he insisted on meeting my family, which lived some 150 miles away. This concept alone impressed me a great deal.

“After he met my parents, he contacted his family to give them his good report and we proceeded with our plans to be married. When I suggested a church, we had our first disagreement. It was impossible for his family from the Middle East to attend a church so we compromised and had a private wedding ceremony.

“Shortly after our marriage, I conceived. He became very excited and called his family to celebrate the occasion.

“During the first few months of our marriage we had several discussions about religion which ended in heated arguments. Thus, we decided not to bring up the subject of Jesus as the Son of God and the crucifixion story. I was allowed to go to church Christmas, Easter and Mother’s Day. But on the way home we would engage in terrible arguments. He would say that I shamed him and the honor of his family because I wouldn’t submit to Islam.

“Except for our religious differences, our life was going well until the birth of our first son. I had never seen any man happier to have a son than my husband. He called his family the day our son was born and they were all proud of us. They praised me highly. My husband said that he was proud of me and that God, too, was pleased with me. For a short time I was the jewel on the family crown and it felt wonderful. I was proud to be his wife and the mother of our son.

“After the birth of our first son, my husband became more zealous in his faith. He declared our son was a Muslim and by Islamic law I was a Muslim through marriage. Our son was given an Islamic name and I was informed that my husband had already whispered verses from the Qur’an in his ear after birth.

“Mixed feelings of anger and resentment came over me. How could he deceive me like this. He had changed and I felt as if I did-
n't know him anymore. All he could think about was to raise his son as a Muslim. We fought and raised our voices in anger almost every day. He was trying to isolate me from everyone, including my family, and though he never raised his hand to me, I wondered when that would happen.

"I became very depressed and thoughts of suicide flooded my mind. How could this beautiful, loving, caring man change to such a terrifying nightmare? What did I do and where did I go wrong? I just wanted to lie down, go to sleep and never wake up again.

"Two years later we had our second son. By this time I was not allowed to go to church at all and our second son was called Muhammad.

"Years passed and because of my pride I was afraid to confide in my parents about my self-made situation. What I once loved about this Muslim man, I now hated. He mentioned many times that a divorce was not an option. He said he would take my sons and disappear in his country and I would never see them again.

"I began to pray to the Lord to somehow relieve me and my sons from such a heavy burden. I prayed and read my hidden Bible, and finally decided to visit a church without his knowledge. The Lord restored my lost relationship with Him and His Word gave me strength to walk one step at a time. He also restored my relationship with my parents who had been praying and seeking God's face on my behalf. Many churches were interceding for my family and me. I lived my life daily as the Bible directed me and as a Christian wife should and my husband's treatment of me began to improve.

"After awhile he did not object to me reading my Bible and going to church. He even visited the church I attended on occasion. Whenever he would argue about the deity of Christ, I just kept my peace and prayed.

"I started to study the statistics concerning marriages between Muslim men and American women. Thousands of marriages are performed yearly, but eight out of ten end in bitter divorces and the children sometimes are taken away by the men and never again seen by their mothers. I refused before the Lord to become another statistic. I prayed and fasted for the salvation of my husband. And though our life was still up and down, I was determined to serve the Lord no matter what.

"The Lord began to open my husband's eyes to see some miracles of healing in my father's life. As the result of ongoing prayers by hundreds of partners in the Lord and unconditional love, my husband began reading the Bible. By the power of the Holy Spirit and grace of God, my husband became fascinated with the story of Jesus. He was drawn to the Fisher of Men, and Jesus manifested himself to my husband in such a powerful way that eventually he was not only saved, but also baptized in the Holy Spirit.

"After the conversion of my husband I had to go through a different kind of battle. His family blamed me for my husband's conversion.

"His father stopped all communication with him and considered him dead to the family. The thought of being dead to his father and family put my husband under great pressure. The feelings of guilt and sorrow created a conflict within him and I was caught in the center of its rage.

"His brothers and sisters took turns engaging in psychological warfare against me. They believed I was the sole reason for the loss of their beloved brother. Despite all the explanations he offered them, they refused to see the real reason for his conversion.

"My mother-in-law came to visit us, hoping to restore her son back to the family and to Islam. Despite the language barrier, for four months she and I battled in a 'love and hate' war zone. I loved her everyday, even when she placed the Qur'an on my husband's dresser. I loved her when she faithfully prayed to Allah five times a day. I understood a mother's love for her son, but the spirit of oppression that entered our home was entirely a force of its own. Every day as I removed the Qur'an to replace it with the Bible, I prayed even harder.

"My husband was battling a spirit that had held him captive for 30 years while the Spirit of Christ in him was fighting to keep him on the right path.

"After my mother-in-law returned to her home we began to pick up the pieces and moved on to the next chapter of our lives, but only by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and one day at a time.

"My husband's salvation was a miracle. It has been a hard and long road for both of us and we have not yet arrived.

"The abuse among the women of such marriages is so overwhelming, neither of us recommend such unions. Taking a biblical approach would spare a young lady the heartache and disappointment of such an unwise marital union."