**1st Meeting Notes: A Case Study**

**I met** \*Sami last night near the big roundabout downtown. He was only a few minutes late. He seemed very comfortable and friendly. We went to a quiet nearby café and sat outside.

**I gave** him a Kitab El Hayat New Testament and told him if he just wanted the Book, there it was, but if he wanted to talk some I'd be glad to. He wanted to talk. **I asked** what prompted him to ask for a Bible. He said it was his nature to want to know something for himself rather than just receiving what he's been told. He also said he had concerns that the NT is corrupted, that there are a lot of versions, etc. I told him that the Bible was canonized in Carthage and that a lot of differences are based on the difficulties of translation that he understood because of his familiarity with French and Arabic. I also said that there are many English translations for the Quran. He seemed fairly satisfied with that.

**I asked** him if he was exploring these things alone and he told me that he was a co-worker with a well-known local believer’s brother, and had been fascinated with this believer’s (and other family members’) decision to follow Christ. We also talked some about whether he had others with whom he talked about spiritual stuff—he didn't. I said we may need to pray about that, because it would be a great blessing for him.

He had put the Book in his pocket quickly, as though perhaps concerned about security, so I briefly explained its Old Testament, New Testament, Torah, Poetry, etc. layout on my phone. I told him he may want to read Genesis on his phone (and later showed him how to download it), but recommended we start with Matthew 5-7 to explore his assumption that all religions are approximately the same. As we read it he kept saying there were a lot of similarities with Islam. He was surprised by the difficulties of some of the teachings (lust, anger...) but I was surprised that it was the one about not making oaths that really impacted him. He was a good reader and for sure literate. He got part way into chapter six and I'm not totally sure what he was thinking: it seemed favorable in general, but he still wasn't getting the contrast with Islam. He went on another monologue about religions and I told him that he'd seen 2 minutes of a movie, and would need to see the whole thing. I told him he would see something special in Messiah's life and teachings. He seemed thoughtful about that. I told him that if he read he would find Jesus' teachings extremely difficult, but that by the end he would start to see that God has a plan, and that he would be amazed to learn that God loves him. This seemed to bless and surprise him.

As we were wrapping up the conversation we talked a bit more about the need for him to have a local with whom he can study. He agreed. **I shared** a very brief testimony with him, telling him that since I was a child I've been searching for God because of difficulties in my family's life. I told him I've got a treasure, and that I love to give it away, because amazingly the more I give of it, the more I get. As a result I'm more than happy to share with him, but because I travel, language barriers, etc., I think it'd be great if he could find a local.

Overall it was a very friendly, good first step. **I need to follow-up by**:

* praying for him to find other seekers
* getting him links to a series of local Christian TV shows (from the past)
* asking him how Matthew is progressing
* getting him a link to an article about the Bible being canonized here, and not being corrupted

Questions to Consider about 1st Meetings related to this Case Study:

* When/Where will you meet?
* Based upon this case study, what are some top objectives for a 1st meeting? [Feel free to mark-up/highlight this case study further.]
* How might you close a 1st meeting? Where might you leave things with a 1st-time contact? If/How/When will you follow-up with this contact? Do you need any additional contact information? How does this contact prefer to communicate?

*\*Names and locations have been changed*