

Good evening, everyone.

I'm Andrea Williams of Christian Concern and it is my great pleasure to welcome you here tonight.

We live in interesting times – from a geopolitical, economic, religious and global perspective.

This nation of ours has a great heritage – our legal, parliamentary, economic, medical and education systems have been copied across the world.

How I love this nation!

We are the home of Alfred the Great, Queen Victoria and Elizabeth.

We are the home of integrity in business, the handshake deal, “our word is our bond”, and of course where pound sterling signalled strength and security.

We are the home of a parish church in every village and the great evangelical revival.

We are the home of the modern missions movement.

We are the nation that led the abolition of slavery.

We are the home of safety and security; of community.

We are the home of the bobby on the beat and fish and chips.

So, what has happened?

There is a reality – that the world is both large and small. Globalisation, travel, media now make many things universal challenges.

And yet, these changes are more than the world getting smaller. These changes also reflect a genuine cultural loss – and for the UK, the loss of Christ from the centre of civic, political and socio-economic life and the marginalisation of Him from all public life.

In Hebrews 1:3 (NIV) the writer says Jesus, the Son, “is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word”.

This is not simply a claim - it is the foundation of reality. The United Kingdom’s reality.

Because we have forgotten Jesus, we are like the people of Israel in the book of Jeremiah – reading from The Message version:

‘Where’s God,  
the God who got us out of Egypt,  
Who took care of us through thick and thin, those rough-and-tumble  
wilderness years of parched deserts and death valleys,  
A land that no one who enters comes out of,  
a cruel, inhospitable land?’

“I brought you to a garden land  
where you could eat lush fruit.  
But you barged in and polluted my land,  
trashed and defiled my dear land.  
The priests never thought to ask, ‘Where’s God?’

The religion experts knew nothing of me.  
The rulers defied me.

The prophets preached god Baal  
And chased empty god-dreams and empty god-schemes.”

In the UK, as we threw out Jesus, we chased our own god-dreams and ended up in a nation that forgot who she was. It was a sexual revolution full of chaotic laws; cultural and moral chaos – sadness, isolation, broken hearts and broken spirits.

Then, a new people entered this country.

They had a belief system, a political, religious and socio-economic construct within which to live – it was called Islam.

And the sadness has been, despite their coming to the home of the Global Evangelical Missions Movement of the last century, we did not get the memo. Somehow, we didn't rise to the heart, love and commitment needed to bring them to Christ.

Rather they established their religion, built their mosques and the Christian Church failed to penetrate incisively.

By 2002, a well-respected Bible teacher, David Pawson, said that Islam would take over Britain. People laughed.

Sam Solomon, co-founder of Christian Concern, has been saying then same since the 1980s.

He predicted sharia finance, Islamic schools, violence on the streets, Islamic terrorist threats, Islamic led councils., Islamic leaders.

He warned us and it all came true.

Enter Tim Dieppe, a Maths graduate from Oxford.

He was a fund manager in the city, managing global funds on the stock markets of the world.

He became concerned about Islam following 9/11/2001. He had heard of suicide bombers, but assumed they were poor, illiterate, easily manipulable people. In this case, it was pilots who are well-paid and highly educated.

So he started researching Islam. He came across Islamic finance and thought he should understand that too as he worked in finance.

And he became concerned about what he found.

In 2009, he found that the then-chair of HSBC's sharia advisory board, Taqi Usmani, had written a book in English.

In this book he responds to a question: Do we still need to wage jihad in a country like the UK where we can freely build mosques and preach Islam?

In response, Usmani argued from the Qur'an that *“killing is to continue until the unbelievers pay Jizyah after they are humbled or overpowered.”*

Jizyah is the subjugation tax imposed on non-Muslims under Islamic rule.

Tim flagged this to a friend at HSBC who reported it to compliance, who then removed Usmani but left his son on that board, and other imams who doubtless knew and probably sympathised with Usmani's views.

This opened Tim's eyes to the real agenda behind sharia finance – legitimising sharia law.

Tim's work colleagues all knew about this.

In 2010, Tim was asked to run a sharia fund. This would have meant his name was promoted as manager of a sharia fund. He made it clear that he would not be happy to do this and tried to persuade colleagues not to go ahead either on the basis that sharia law is discriminatory against both women and non-Muslims.

None of Tim's colleagues agreed with him which made it stressful.

He reached out for help & connected with Christian Concern.

They decided to go ahead with the sharia fund without Tim but later abandoned the project.

Six years later Tim joined Christian Concern in 2016! This book is the fruit of his work – this is his life – an eminent expert debating across the world.

So what is it that we want?

I know Tim. He loves Jesus; he loves the Truth. He loves Muslims and longs that they would come to know Jesus.

Because Tim loves he is prepared to tell the Truth and expose falsehood. He does not flinch. Even when it comes to Islam.

This book does just that. Tonight, take one for you and another for your friend. Because you love.

We have a message of true hope, we have a Saviour who offers forgiveness and sonship, not servitude. We want them, like us to see Jesus.

Tonight, may our hearts melt in love for our Muslim neighbours, may we start the revolution of love and grace and truth as we seek to reach them with the love of Jesus.