

# How Could He Have Been A Dangerous Spy? He Spoke So Fervently About Tolerance And Peace!

Jay Horsley

Recent new reports have included numerous stories of a Muslim Chaplain and a Muslim translator who worked for the US Army both being arrested for espionage for obtaining and trying to pass to Muslim countries information from and about the Muslim terrorists that our government has detained at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

Aside from the tiring canard (“deliberately false report” – *wjh*) that Islam is a “religion of peace” (why are we always told this after some of its most fervent adherent blow up innocent people?); notice the character and practices of the “religious” spy.

## Army Chaplain in Detention Sought to Teach About Islam By SARAH KERSHAW

Within days of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Capt. James J. Yee, a Muslim chaplain stationed at the Fort Lewis Army base south of here, dedicated himself to a new mission. He would tell anyone who would listen, according to people who heard his sermons, that Islam was not a violent religion, and he would deliver that message at the base, in churches and mosques, on college campuses and on the streets of Olympia, where he lived with his wife and young daughter.

Captain Yee, 35, would apply that same determination...when he was sent last year to minister to Muslim detainees at the American prison camp for militants and suspected terrorists at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. There, it was Captain Yee who arranged for the muezzin's call to prayer to ring through the camp over a loudspeaker five times a day, and when the compact disc player broke, he chanted the prayers himself into a microphone.

[L]aw enforcement officials have said the investigation was aimed at suspicions of espionage, improperly assisting the prisoners or possibly another breach of military duties. One military official said today that Captain Yee was found to have hand-drawn maps of where the prisoners were kept in the camp, lists of which interrogators had interviewed which prisoners and notations on the subjects of the interviews. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said one reason that Captain Yee had come under suspicion was that he was seen in the company of two other military people who had been under surveillance.

Imam Mohamad Joban of the Olympia Islamic Center, where Captain Yee worshiped and

led prayers for a congregation of about 300, said, "He is loyal to his country. He tried to help this country understand Islam better, that Islam is not a violent religion, as many people think." Imam Joban said he was shocked when he heard of Captain Yee's arrest. "All the congregation was shocked," he said in an interview today. "This is not the kind of man who would do that. If you see Yee, you don't believe this. He is so quiet and humble, I don't think he would hurt the country."  
(<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/25/national/25YEE.html?8bl>)

The spying chaplain was a family man. He was devout. He helped his brethren. Why would anyone suspect anything wrong in him? *He was found out because of the company he kept.* He kept company with other Muslims working at Guantánamo that were suspected of espionage. Because of this he was investigated and found to be involved in the same activity.

This directly parallels some things in the church today.

**1.) He was devout, but devout in his error.** Chaplain Yee was a devout Muslim - dedication to false ideas was the first step in the damaging course that he set himself to. Today in the church there are devout men, but devout in their errors and teachings contrary to the scriptures. We must always be fully devoted to truth.

**2.) He was very devoted to like-minded men.** He did all that he could to help his fellow Muslims in Guantánamo, despite the fact that they are murderous terrorists. Today in the church there are those who defend their friends even if their teachings that are not in accord with the truth. We should carefully look at those who keep company with those in error. "*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*" (Amos 3:3)

**3.) He preached tolerance openly, but he worked secretly to promote wrong.** Yee preached that Americans should be "tolerant of Islam" to any who would listen. (Of course Sept. 11, 2001 gave us 2,850 reasons to "misunderstand" them in exactly the way that they do.) This is exactly how error spreads in the church today. There are a few who are openly promoting false doctrines (dangerous to our souls, our faith, and our morality), but there are many who say that we should understand them, tolerate them, and not fight against them. We know from history just how dangerous these men and their errors are - unless we have forgotten the lessons of history.

Let us never be fooled by those who preach tolerance while keeping company with evil men.

**4.) He professed that he loved his country, but in reality he worked against it.** Professions of love, devotion and loyalty are not enough. Many say these things, but their fruits are what really tell the tale. (Matt. 7:15-20)

Lastly, consider how Chaplain Yee, an American Lutheran, became Muslim spy.

Captain Yee, the son of Chinese immigrants, was raised a Lutheran in Springfield, N.J. After converting to Islam in the early 1990's, he studied in Syria, where he met his future wife, a Syrian, and solidified his conversion while serving in the military in Saudi Arabia, he said in an interview with The New York Times in October 2001. He first became interested in Islam in 1991, after getting to know Egyptian army officers in vehicle maintenance classes with him at Fort Knox, Ky. After observing the Egyptians fasting during the month-long Muslim holiday of Ramadan, he said, "that just kind of inspired me to go and study more on my own."

He said he converted to Islam in April of 1991, and by August found himself deployed to Saudi Arabia in the aftermath of the Gulf War. He said he often visited a Saudi sponsored tent at the Khobar Towers military base to pick up Islamic books and texts translated into English. [Didn't some Muslim terrorists later blow up this housing unit and the American soldiers inside it? And this is where Yee learned about the "religion of peace"? *wjh*]

In 1993, he said, the Saudi Air Force and the Saudi royal family paid for him and other Americans to make the pilgrimage to Mecca that is known as the hajj, a trip that every Muslim is required to make at least once. He made the pilgrimage a second time two years later, and looked around for a program in the Middle East where he could study Islamic theology and sciences and Arabic. "I didn't want to study my religion in a secular institution," he said. "I wanted to go and study it from the traditional method, which is studying with Islamic scholars in the Middle East." (from same NY Times' article)

Brethren, how important to our spiritual health are the company we keep, the books that we read, the things that we study, the person we marry and the places we go?