

Author, Former Missionary Pens Book to fight Prejudice, Fear of Muslims
Peace Activist Steve Slocum uses new book, "Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World", to tackle Islamophobia, shed light on peaceful Muslim mainstream.

San Diego, CA (June 28, 2019) – Five years as a Christian missionary in Asian Kazakhstan was a game changer for Steve Slocum, altering forever his view of Muslims and his understanding of Islam. Today, with anti-Muslim sentiment at an all time high, Slocum is on a mission to dispel rumors and myths about Muslims and shed light on Islam's peaceful mainstream in his debut book, *Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World*, and through his work with SalaamUSA, the nonprofit he founded in 2018.

In an era of rampant Islamophobia, Slocum's book is essential reading."

- Todd H. Green, author of *The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West*

With the release of his debut book, Slocum takes a stand against Islamophobia and encourages his readers to see through the rising anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. and beyond. By taking the spotlight off the extremists, Slocum instead exposes the heart of the everyday Muslim through Christian outreach and clears up common misconceptions about jihad, Sharia law and the role of women in Islam.

"In his comprehensive, helpful debut, Slocum encourages Christians to establish friendly relationships with Muslims." - Publishers Weekly

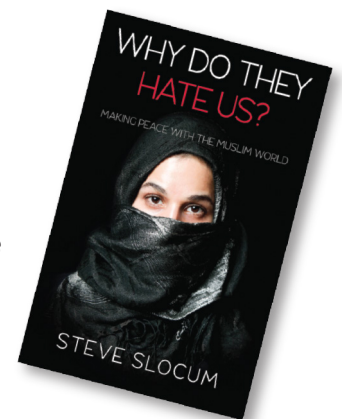
When Slocum returned from his missionary work in 1997, he resumed his engineering career, but became uncomfortable with the growing animosity towards Muslims. *"When 9/11 happened, just like everyone else, I was traumatized,"* said Slocum. *"Having experienced the generosity and hospitality of the Muslim Kazak culture, I couldn't fathom Muslim radicals flying packed airliners into skyscrapers filled with people."*

After 9/11, the world became more fearful of Muslims, and the current political climate has only exacerbated the issue, culminating in the rise of horrific hate crimes like the New Zealand Mosque shooting. *"I believe many Americans have never healed from the trauma of 9/11. Others have misconceptions about Islam fed by media coverage of extremists,"* Slocum added.

Most Americans don't even know a Muslim, and 55% say they know "little or nothing" about Islam, according to SalaamUSA. *"In this void, Americans' opinions about Islam are shaped by the media, political rhetoric, and religious bias,"* said Slocum. *"Islamophobia is a present and rising force in the West,"* says D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer at Midwest Book Review. *"(Slocum) takes a stand against this prejudice by advocating a different approach to not just tolerating Muslims, but getting to know them on a personal level. In this case, familiarity does not breed contempt. It leads to understanding."*

This personal interaction across cultures and faiths is the crux of Slocum's work with SalaamUSA. From awareness events to mosque visits to the face-to-face friendship dinners and discussion groups, Salaam's programs help fight fear with friendship.

"Since people fear what they don't know, we create curriculum and hold workshops that help people better understand the peaceful mainstream – rather than the extremism that dominates the headlines, Slocum said.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2019

Contact: Leann Garms
leanngarms@gmail.com
214-289-3563

"There could have been no better timing for the appearance of "Why Do They Hate Us?" than in these modern times," added Donovan.

The book which releases on July 16 (Top Reads Publishing) has garnered rave early rave reviews from the trade and scholars alike, many calling it 'essential reading' and a thoughtful first hand examination of Islam's peaceful mainstream. A few of the reviews include:

"This book is an important antidote to the rising anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. and beyond. It will appeal to those who are seeking the truth about the Islamic faith and those who are hoping to live their spirit by reading the work of a committed bridge builder."

- **Dr. Craig Considine, Department of Sociology, Rice University**

"Well-researched, cogently argued, and drawing on the work of scholars as well personal insights, Slocum's work avoids clichés and deeply examines the complex relationship between Islam and the West. In the end, Slocum unmask a clash of ignorance and reveals a shared humanity to which we can all relate."

- **Muhammed Hassanali, Booklist Starred Review**

"Steve Slocum skillfully encourages us to rediscover the beautiful truth about our Muslim sisters and brothers. This book is for the peacemakers, the haters, and everyone in between who long to see more clearly and who dare to believe that God inhabits uncommon friendships and, through them, is remaking the world."

- **Jer Swigart, Co-Founder, The Global Immersion Project, Co-Author, Mending the Divides: Creative Love in a Conflicted World**

"There could have been no better timing for the appearance of "Why Do They Hate Us?" than in these modern times," - **Midwest Book Reviews**

Slocum launches a national book tour with local book events at Warwicks in La Jolla on June 30 followed by Barnes & Noble stores throughout Southern California before heading up the coast as far as Seattle, WA and Vancouver, BC to spread his message of interfaith peace and tolerance.

About Steve Slocum:

Steve Slocum, author and peace activist, founded SalaamUSA.org with the goal of creating friendship between Muslims and non-Muslims. Motivated by his experience as a missionary in Kazakhstan, Slocum wrote *Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World* to counter rampant Islamophobic political rhetoric and give a voice to Islam's peaceful mainstream. Through SalaamUSA and his new book, Slocum hopes to fight the fear, prejudice, and violence surrounding Islamophobia. He is an ambassador for the Parliament of World Religions and a presenter at the 2018 Parliament in Toronto. He is a frequent keynote speaker and media expert based in San Diego.

About SalaamUSA.org:

SalaamUSA.org is a non-profit organization that focuses on creating mutual understanding between Muslims, Christians, Jews and the non-religious. Salaam uses events, community outreach and media to raise awareness of Islam from an unbiased, non-religious, nonpartisan perspective.



www.steveslocum.com