

## Letters to the Editor

Article published September 11, 2010.

### Answers to madness scarce

A decade ago, I was at the University of Florida in Gainesville. My son graduated from East Side High School's IB program. One of my two daughters also attended the IB school there. My children still have friends - more Christians and Jews than Muslims - in Gainesville.

My 7-year old daughter was at school when the tragedy on 9/11 occurred. Watching on TV at school the horrific destruction, she was totally traumatized. That evening when I called her from work, the first thing she asked me was: *Are Muslim supposed to be like this? How can they kill thousands of innocent people and destroy New York for nothing?* I had no answer for her, since I didn't have any for myself either.

The day following the attack, emotions were running high. So, I asked my elder daughter not to wear her hijab to school. She wore a baseball cap instead. That wasn't good enough for her teacher. She asked her: *"Why Ayesha, why? Why did you take off your headscarf? We know you. You don't have to be scared. You are protected here!"* The same morning, when my wife went to work, she found Susan - her American coworker whose son was stationed in Iraq - donning a headscarf, as a sign of support. Susan came to her desk and without saying a word she hugged her in a tight embrace.

That's the America I know and those are the Americans I came to love and respect.

It is beyond belief that a tiny church in a prestigious University town would stir such a controversy and rile up not only Muslims but every peace-loving Christian and Jew in the world.

At the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I beseech my Christian friends: Do *you* have an answer for Rev. Terry Jones' madness?

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<http://www.toledoblade.com/article/20100911/OPINION03/100919954>