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Field Practicum  
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## Dray

I had just returned to Parchman from SMCI. I was housed at Unit 26-B. As a personal spiritual discipline, I was writing the plans for my own funeral. I often worked-on these plans during the early hours of the morning. One morning while engaged in this activity, I had a Roman Catholic Missal on the table where I was sitting.

Dray, who is a Muslim, approached me and asked me if I were a Catholic. I told him that I am.

I initially was somewhat perturbed by the interruption. However, Dray is outgoing and personable, and I later made the observation that he frequently talks to many different people on the zone. He is in his late thirties.

I told Dray that I had read the Qur'an six times; that I ordered a copy from the MDOC commissary right after 9/11; and that I found it to be one of the most excellent texts that I have ever read!

He discussed the fact that he read both the Bible and the Qur'an, and that he considers it to be his mission in life to reconcile the teachings found in these two primary religious texts.

I told him that St. Thomas Aquinas had succeeded in reconciling the teachings of Greek philosophy and Christian Theology: two schools of thought which many people at the time viewed as being diametrically opposed to each other.

I also told Dray that he has his work cut-out for him!

At one point, Dray asked me why I had not tried to convert him to Christianity. In response, I told him that, during spring break one year while I was in college, I went out on the beach in Daytona, Florida and told people about Jesus. However, I went-on to tell him I have found that my most effective witnessing tool is my lifestyle.

I told him that if people see in-me something which they want: and they know that they cannot steal it from me, or con me out-of it, then they might ask **me** about Jesus.

I also told him that I had deep personal pain about this issue, as I had tried to get my dad and my three sisters to accept Jesus as their personal Savior; and the result of my efforts was that they became offended and had my parole revoked.

Dray and I since have had many sessions of "chopping it up". (This is an idiomatic expression in the prison vernacular which means "having an interesting discussion.")