Another Swiss, Herr Abder Rashid Vogel, whose greatest desire was to become a clergyman and Christian Missionary in Africa, fell victim to the beauty of Islam and found out that "Islam is the only true religion which encompasses all other true teachings". It will be interesting to note that "Vogel" in German means bird. Thus, Mr. Vogel brought to the fold of Islam by the followers of the Promised Messiah is, literally one of the many white birds, which the Promised Messiah caught in his vision.

Here our brother Abder Rashid Vogel narrates his story



I was born in a small township of Switzerland on May 27, 1934. *My parents being Roman Catholics, I was baptised and admitted into the Catholic Church.*

I used to go to Church often with pleasure. My greatest desire was to become a clergyman and a Christian missionary in Africa. Thus at the age of 13 *I joined a school of a missionary society. But there came a change in me, slowly but irresistibly. I became critical, things began to make me think and doubts came up in me. Step by step I alienated myself from the Chruch to seek my own way. I was disturbed at the thought that in Christianity God was more or less banished to the back-door and His place in worship was given to Jesus, Mary and other saints. I still believed in God as well as in the Hereafter, yet no more in the Godhead of Jesus. I therefore stayed away from the Chruch and its institutions.*

I went to Africa, in 1956, *at the age of* 22. *Earlier I had read about Buddha, Confucius and other religious founders, but not about Islam, which I did not even regard as a religion at all. I had been taught at school that Mohammad had been given to excessive brooding and as a result was slightly mentally deranged, so that he thought, in this mental state of his, to have seen an angel; further, that he mixed up teachings of Christianity, Judaism and some heathen customs and that was Islam: a teaching well suited to the nomads of the desert.*

Now being in Muslim surroundings, I wanted to know more of the religion of Islam. I came across a copy of the Arabic-German edition of the Holy Quran, with a comrade of mine, published by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission in Zurich. When this friend flew back to Switzerland, I requested him to send me a copy of the Holy Quran from there. I read it with great zeal. Now here was a different Islam, quite different from the one presented to us at school. The Introduction by Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Imam and Head of the Ahmadiyya Movement, provided me with answers to most of my questions and problems.

Thereupon I studied more literature and came to the firm conclusion that **Islam is the only true religion which encompasses all other true teachings and confirms the truth of earlier prophets and guides the seekers after Truth towards God.** *Thus I accepted Islam and, in order to underline willingness always to be guided through God, I chose my name: Abder Rashid.*

Mr. M. Naimul Islam, Netherlands explains how he recited The Kalima (There is no object of worship but Allah and Mohammad is His Messenger) from the depth of his heart:-



My parents belonged to Dutch Reformed Church but only in name. My father died in a car accident when I was only 16 *years old. In the beginning I had no inclination towards religion but after the death of my beloved father I tried to seek peace in my search for God. I read books on Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity but none of them could give me any peace. They presented their own God instead of a God Of All Humanity. In their opinion religion and God was their monopoly and except their particular creed there was darkness everywhere. This meant that in accepting any one of these creeds one had to throw away the beauties of other faiths.*

In the meantime I happened to find some books on Islam and I was greatly impressed by its tolerance and appreciation of the good qualities of other creeds. I found that Islam presented one true God—The God of the Universe. Islam had no priesthood, and recognised the direct relation of the Creator and the created. The study of the Quran gave me strength and that Peace for which I so much longed. So I wrote to the Imam of the Hague Mosque, Mr. Q. U. Hafiz, and later met him in person. He explained to me the teachings of Islam and I had to come into the fold of this true religion of God as I could no longer resist its beauty. From the depth of my heart I said "there is no God but Allah and Mohammad (Peace be on him) is His Messenger."