AS IN EUROPE SO IN THE U. S. A. ISLAM IS GAINING CONVERTS FROM CHRISTIANITY. IN ONE OF ITS ISSUES "PANORAMA", THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PAKISTAN REVEALED THAT 1,000 AMERICANS HAVE COME OVER TO ISLAM THROUGH AHMADIYYAT. BELOW IS GIVEN THE STORY OF MR. ABUL KALAM (PREVIOUSLY MR. GEORGE MOORE) OF PITTSBURG U.S.A., RELATING SOME OF THE REASONS WHY HE FORSOOK CHRISTIANITY AND CHOSE ISLAM AS HIS RELIGION.

During the Great Depression in 1932 I was invited to a propagation meeting of the Ahmadia Movement in Islam. In this meeting there was nothing said which especially interested me. They were talking about God and the Prophets like I had been used to hearing all my life. But it was something new, and was attracting the attention of those who I was trying to influence. When we were asked to join with them in their crusade I stood up and said; "This thing you all are talking about is having great effect on the minds of our people, and if it is not what we need it ought to be stopped. I am willing to join for the purpose of finding out what it is and if I find that it is not what we need I will fight it, and if I find that it is what we need I will do all I can to push it. If you will take me in on their books I'll join.' 'Old Brother Muhammad Omar (a man I had never seen before) said "Write his name down there brother." That is how I joined, but I had not chosen Islam yet.

As briefly as I could I availed myself of all the literature and personal help of the brothers and sisters who were at hand. In about a month's time I told the few who were under my instruction and guidance : "You know there is a man in the East who is trying to do exactly the same thing we are trying to do here. I believe he has more sense about what he is doing than I have, and we all ought to join with him."

So, choosing Islam has been a gradual process from the very beginning. I chose Islam because there is something in me which says that the teaching of Islam is right. Islam attacks poverty at the source and cures the disease and lets the symptom take care of itself. Islam is like the experienced doctor who ignores the headache that the patient is complaining about but proceeds to purge the stomach and give the patient the proper food and vitamins and the headache will stop itself. That is the only effective way of treatment.

So whatever is your complaint, let it be poverty, broken homes, conflict between science and religion, Negro Problems, National and international problems or what have you, apply Islam and see all the symptoms disappear as if by the force of magic. This is why I chose Islam! It is the Creator at work! "La illah il Allah Mohammadur Rasul lil Allah."

ANOTHER AMERICAN, OUR SISTER MARYAM SALIHA (FORMERLY MILDRET E. SOLOMON JR.) SAYS IN HER STORY TOLD BELOW THAT IT WAS THE BLIND FAITH OF CHRISTIANS IN THEIR IRRATIONAL DOGMAS WHICH JUST PUSHED HER TOWARDS ISLAM. SHE SAYS :

When I was a child about eleven years of age, I started my religious career by joining a Sunday School class in the Methodist Church. After classes were over, we were expected to stay for the Sunday sermon by the Minister of the church. Most of the sermons I heard were designed to frighten the members into staying away from sin. They also portrayed God as only an angry God, who would damn you to eternal hell if you committed a sin. After a few years of hearing about only an angry Creator, I broke away from this church and started attending religious rites of the Catholic church with a friend of mine... I was very impressed at first with the beauty, peace and comfort it seemed to bring me. It wasn't long, however, before I realized that the people of this faith follow their leaders blindly. They had been indoctrinated into the beliefs from childhood and never thought to question the laws at any time. There was no depth to their belief; only a parrot-like following without any true knowledge of what was behind it. I became thoroughly disillusioned in religion and attempted to set up a creed for myself. I remained in this state for quite a few years. Then I met my future husband. He was a Muslim by birth, both parents having been born and reared in Labanon. I began my study of Islam only for the sake of promoting a better marriage through understanding of my husband's belief. It wasn't long after the beginning of that study that I realized that this was the faith I had been seeking for so long. It spoke of a loving, as well as a stern, God. The laws set forth were such that they appealed to one's reason and commonsense. I began reading the Holy Quran. Each night a new and beautiful revelation was presented to me through the words of the Holy Book. They stretched before me in a never ending beautiful pattern. I had no choice but to embrace Islam through Ahmadiyyat. I knew I could never believe in any other creed, for this, surely, was the true religion of God. I cannot say that since that time I am the happiest woman in the world, for this would not be true. My acceptance of Islam has brought many tears and heartaches. It was inevitable that it would be so since I live in a Western civilization and culture. But, no matter what the price I pay in every day happiness, it is not too great. The spiritual peace of mind I receive from being an Ahmadi is truly rewarding. I shall always remain a Muslim and an Ahmadi.

(Inshaullah)