

Lost Cows and the Muslim Butcher
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Nowhere in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be serving God's people in a pretty rural area. It never entered my mind, but here I am, serving with joy!

My grandson and I were worshipping one Sunday morning this summer when we were told in conversation that a local farmer had 'lost' almost a dozen cows. Cows are expensive and a prayer was offered during worship that the cows would be found.

My grandson is 5, and he was worried about the cows - wanting us to go help look for them. Truthfully, we wouldn't have known what to do with a cow if we had found them, or even how to go about looking for them. He worried about the cows all week, and wanted updates, as we prayed for the return of the missing cows. 5-year-olds are persistent, you know.

It came about that the cows were found by a local man who put them in his pasture and watered them not knowing to whom they belonged. Finally, they were found and reunited with the rightful owner.

This is where the story takes a turn. The man who found the cows is a Muslim butcher. The holiday of Eid al-Adha was fast approaching and he was processing goats for the holiday while all this was happening. As the Lutheran farmer and the Muslim butcher talked, a couple of the cows were sold to the butcher, and a relationship was formed.

Sometimes we don't understand why or how things happen. An opportunity for the saving message of the gospel is forming here. How it turns out is not up to us. God can use us (and cows) as He places us in situations to share Jesus wherever we are. It might be that God uses missing cows to bring people together for His purpose!

Pray for the farmer and the butcher that the Holy Spirit provides opportunity for sharing the message of Jesus with our neighbors in the community. Pray for open hearts to hear the message, and that more people can realize the saving faith God wants for all people!

1 Corinthians 3:6 "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."