A t the same time that our mission sta-
tion being bombed by the Na-
tional Islamic Front government in
Sudan, fellow missionaries were organis-
ing ‘Reconciliation Walks’ to the Middle East to
apologise for ‘The Crusades’.

As our church services and schools were
under aerial and artillery bombardment
by Jihadists, this seemed rather bizarre.
Some claim that the Crusaders were
The starting point of hostility bet-
between Islam and the West, disrupt-
ing five centuries of peaceful
coexistence.

WHAT PRECEDED
THE CRUSADES?

However the Crusades
only started after five
centuries of Islamic
Jihad had conquered
and annihilated, or
forcibly converted,
over two thirds of what
had formerly been the
Christian world. Shortly after the Islamic
conquest of Jerusalem in 638, Christian pilgrims were harassed, massacred and crucified. Muslim governors extorted ransom
money from Pilgrims and ransacked churches.
The depiction of Saladin as merciful and
demonstrates a lack of knowledge of the
crimes committed by the Crusaders.

In 937, Muslims went on a rampage in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday plun-
ding the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the
Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem
be destroyed. When the Seljuk Turks swept
into Jerusalem in 1077 they murdered
over three thousand people, including
many Christians. It was at this point that
the Christian Emperor of Byzantium,
Alexius I, appealed for help to the Western
churches.

Pope Urban II challenged the knights
of Europe at the Council of Clermont in
1095: “The Turks and Arabs have attacked
our brethren in the East. They have killed
and captured many and have destroyed
the churches. On this account I…persuade
all people of whatever rank, foot soldiers
and knights, poor and rich, to carry ad
promptly to those Christians…”

Nowhere in the call for the launch of
the Crusades was there talk about either
conquest or conversion. They were merely
motivated by political rivalry and
economics; each begged to be allowed
the写作和记录中的十字军，
one will not find any mention of Crusad-
ers seeking to convert the Saracens or the
Turks. The Crusaders saw themselves as
Pilgrims seeking to recapture and liberate
Christian lands from vicious invaders.

MYTHS OF HISTORY

The depiction of Saladin as merciful and
magnanimous is a myth. When Saladin
captured the Crusaders at Hattin on 4 July
1187, he ordered the mass execution of all
the Christians: “They should be beheaded
in accordance with Quran 4:74 ‘When you
meet the unbelievers on the battlefield,
stike their necks’.

Christianity is often accused of being a bloodthirsty religion,
as evidenced by the Crusades. Yet - most cynics do not even know
what the Crusades entailed! Christian - you need to know the truth...

The myth that the Crusades were unpro-
ected by the Crusaders, which ended over
700 years ago. It would be wise for us to first learn from
reliable sources what the crusades were all about.

Every monk, priest and deacon was
dragged to the altar and had their throats
drawn by the Crusaders, and the Cathedral of Saint Peter were destroyed.

On 29 May 1453, the greatest city in
the world of that time, Constantinople, was
conquered by the Muslims. “slow everyone got in the streets, men,
women and children without discrimination.
The blood ran in rivers down the steep
streets from the heights of Pleta toward
the golden horn.” The Muslim soldiers even
entered the Hagia Sophia, and slaughtered
thousands of Christians worshiping in
what was then the largest church in the
world at that time.
In the first century of Islam, Muslim armies were invading Europe. Spain suffered under Islamic occupation for 8 centuries. In the 14th Century, Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia, Albania and Croatia fell to Muslim invaders. In 1426 the Egyptian Mukluks conquered Byzantium. In other words, the Crusades were a failure.

The Crusades ended many centuries ago, however Islamic Jihad is carried on to this day. Millions of Christians have been slaughtered throughout the centuries by Islamic militants – such as the 1.5 million Armenians murdered in Turkey in 1915. Christians have continued to be slaughtered by Islamic militants in Indonesia, the Philippines, Sudan and Nigeria to the present day.

Therefore, before Christians fall over themselves to apologise for the Crusades, which ended over 700 years ago, it would be wise to first learn from reliable sources what the Crusades were all about, and study the Islamic teachings and track record of Jihad over the last 14 centuries. Those who do not know their past have no future.

Dr. Peter Hammond has been a pioneer missionary to Muslim in Sudan. He is the author of “Secrets, Spies and Lies: The Historical Scene and Contemporary Threat”. Email: peter@frontline.org.za Tel: 021 689 6490

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE Crusades

Crusaders defending Acre in a dangerous, costly battle

CLEAR DANGER

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They fought for the honour of the Lord, Whose churches had been destroyed...this was a defensive war for them.

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