Islam misunderstood by average Americans

By Michael Hooper Senior Reporter

When the average American thinks of the Islamic religion, he or she often not accept Jesus as the son of God. acquaints it to the Middle-Eastern terrorist group, Islamic Jihad, or such been prompted by the media, Von people as Moammar Gadhafi and the Hollen said. Only a minor portion of the acceptance of Mohammed as God's Ayatollah Khomeini.

Such associations, however, misrepresent the religion, said Christopher Von Hollen, former ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives and current Director of the American Institute for Islamic Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Most Americans became familiar with Islam only seven years ago, when Khomeini took over in Iran, the price of oil increased significantly, American hostages were taken in Lebanon and the Soviet Union invaded Islamic Afghanistan. But the religion, which is similar to Christianity, has been around for more than 14 centuries, Von Hollen said in a speech at the Wick Alumni Center. Von Hollen's appearance was sponsored by UNL's Institute for International Studies.

Islam is both a religion and a way of life, Von Hollen said. Nearly one billion people around the world adhere to the religion, he said. It is the fastest growing religion. About 40 Muslim-majority countries stretch from sub-Saharan Africa through the Middle East to south and south-east Asia, Von Hollen

Von Hollen said some Americans view Islam negatively.

Many Americans don't realize that

New Mission to open doors January'87

By Kirk Zebolsky Staff Reporter

The People's City Mission, 124 S. Ninth St., is too old and too small, so the provider of social services will move to 110 Q St.

The new building is being constructed. About 135 volunteers have started - the ground-breaking ceremony was July 27 - and 200 to 300 more volunteers will be needed, said Steve Janovec, executive director of the mission.

One hundred volunteers will be needed each day from Sept. 22 through Oct. 17, Janovec said. The positions include common labor, clean up, skilled work such as carpentry, tile setting and roofing, security and food service. Student volunteers are welcome, he said.

The two-story brick building, with twice the space of the old building, will open in January, Janovec said, and will serve twice the number of poor people. For example, he said, a playground is planned, and the medical clinic will be almost three times larger.

The "overcrowded, aging" Ninth Street building doesn't meet the needs of the community, he said, and mission workers are "trying to do too much."

Police often refer the needy to the mission, Janovec said. Lincoln families, or singles facing eviction or domestic abuse, for example, need emergency shelter, he said. The "large population" of low-income residents needs other services the mission provides, including counseling and ministry.

Last year the mission, which is open 24 hours a day, served 50,000 meals, provided 15,000 nights of lodging and distributed 30,000 items of clothing, Janovec said. Ten thousand people were served last year.

The decision to move was made in

Money for the new building was raised last year through donations, Janovec said. The \$1.3 million needed includes the value of volunteer con-

struction work. For more information, call 476-7070 or 475-1303.

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ilar to Christianity in that it recognizes terrorism, he said. such prophets as Adam, Noah, Abraham and Jesus. However, Moslems do peacefully, he said.

Associating terrorism to Islam has the five pillars of Islam:

Islam is a monotheistic religion, sim- ted States or are involved in political worship him.)

The great majority of Moslems live

Moslems share a common belief -

profession of faith in God and Moslems, often those seeking revival- messenger of his will. (Moslems do not ism of the faith, are critical of the Uni- see Mohammed as divine; they do not

praying five times a day

percent a year

fasting

 pilgrimage to Mecca, a trip that Moslems are expected to make.

Von Hollen said there is approximately 450 places of worship for Islams in the United States.

Von Hollen encouraged Lincoln Moslems to share their religion with non- alms giving, between 2 1/2 and 3 Moslems because, although Americans seem apprehensive toward it, they are also curious.

> Von Hollen's speech and the panel discussion that followed it was the first of a series of such conferences to be sponsored by the Institute of International Studies this year.







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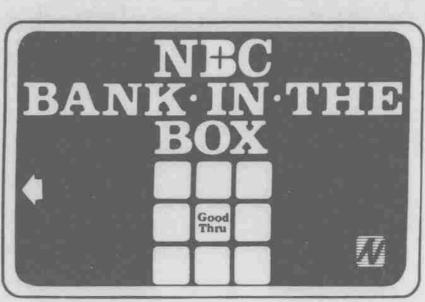








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