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Michael interviews Sheikh Twaliki from Ulongwe Mosque. The Sheikh has been at this mosque 11 months, was sent specifically to preach about AIDS. He is a young man, in his 30s.

I: After the introduction, I asked him to define the word Tauba.

R: First of all I would like to tell you that Islam is like a circle, and anyone who jumps out of that circle is regarded as a person who is out of Islam. In this circle are the do's of the Islamic religion.

I: What are they?

R: In total, there are five, namely: i) Believing that there is one God and Muhammed is his messenger. ii) praying five times/day iii) paying *zakaat* (arabic, contribution); iv) fasting during Rhamadhan v) going to *hadji* (Mecca) therefor anyone who does not do that is said to be out of Islam. And just to remind you, there are two terms that are commonly used to name people who break Islamic rules. There is *kafri*, a person who doesn't do anything about the Islamic rules, and there is *fasku*, a person who does some of the rules but also does things out of Islam.

I: So what can a person do to become *kafri*?

R: If he does not pray, drinking beer, making *zinna* (arabic-sexual intercourse with a partner [woman who is not your wife] ) then he is regarded as a *kafri*.

I: So, if you can compare between now and the past, when do people sin a lot?

R: These days people sin a lot because they do the thing while knowing that they are doing it against the religion. But people in the past, they didn't, because then Islam was not well spread as it is today.

I: So it means more people are making *Tauba* these days than before?

R: Sure, and since I came it's not that long, but three people have come to me to say they have left what they were doing.

I: What things did they say they were doing?

R: Some were not praying, and the other one, he used to go out with married women.

I: So, since you came, have you ever preached about AIDS in this mosque?

R: Yes, and its only last month that I haven't touched that issue since I came?

I: So, what do you say about it in your message?

R: You know, even in the Quran AIDS is there, so I tell people referring to what the Quran says, people should be faithful to their spouse.

R: It has been good, and others have been coming to me encouraging me to go ahead.

I: What group of people is that, your fellow sheiks, or who?

R: Not my fellow sheiks, but anyone who gets touched by the message.

I: so, can a person make *Tauba* because of poverty or disease?

R: Yes, if he was not doing what Islam wants, it's possible. I can give you an example of a person who went to prophet Muhammed to say he was very poor and wanted God to help him. Prophet Muhammed told him to start praying and leave anything that he did which was out of Islam. Then afterwards, when people saw that he was poor, they started helping him with clothes and other things. But still the man was not satisfied and went back to Prophet Muhammed, telling him that he wasn't satisfied with what he got. Prophet Muhammed gave him an axe and told him to start selling firewood, and afterwards he became rich.

I: What about disease, can you be healed because you've made *Tauba*?

R: Yes, but in two ways: You can be healed here on earth and continue living happily, and you can die with that disease but you cannot be attacked by it in an eternal life.

I: I also hear that Islam is divided into two groups, is this true?

R: It's not true, only that we differ in beliefs, but Islam is one.

I: Can you give me examples?

R: Yes, there are things that people used to do when they were young, and when they grow if someone tells

them to leave doing that, he can't accept. For example, there are some people who feast at the funeral service, and when other people tell them that it is bad, it's when the division comes. [This reflects a current controversy. Michael says that the group that feasts at funerals, the *Kadria* claimed that President Muluzi was favoring the other group, the Sukut, because he himself is believed to be a Sukut].

I: So, which side are you?

R: I don't believe that feasting at a funeral service is good.

I: Lastly, how many people does your mosque accommodate?

R: More than 200.

I: When does it become full?

R: During Fridays–*Ijuma* prayers.

I: Why?

R: Because people are aware of the *hadith* that says if a Moslem stays for about three Fridays without praying, that one is regarded as out of Islam (he said that the *hadith* are sayings of Prophet Muhammed that even God agreed were good).

At the end I told him that I might visit him again, and he said no problem. He was happy with the soap and sugar.