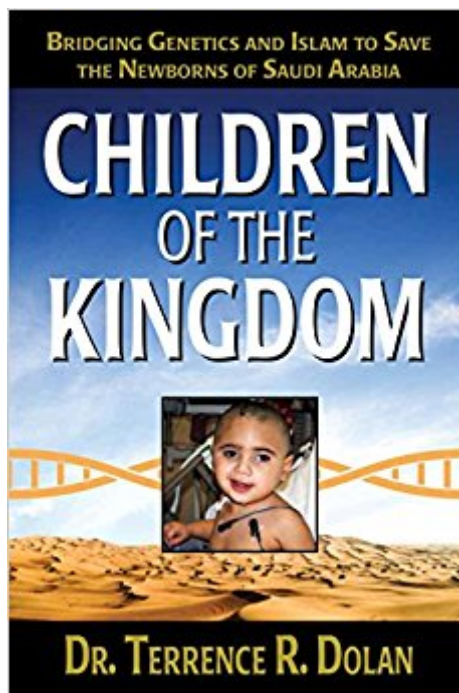




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Children Of The Kingdom: Bridging Genetics And Islam To Save The Newborns Of Saudi Arabia



Synopsis

This is a book that is about a changing Saudi Arabia, the globalization of concern for children, the power of science, a family adventure, and hope. But mostly, it's about one scholar's lifelong goal of improving the lives of children at risk and one Prince's goal of improving the lives of the children of his nation. It is a tale of possibility. We need many more like it. --Timothy Shriver, Chairman, Special Olympics International

It was an idyllic, warm spring day, and from my office I watched students on the University of Wisconsin campus preparing to embark on new summers and new adventures. I had been a professor, a neuroscientist, and the director of a research center for so long it had been decades since I was uncertain about my path. Then the phone rang and my life changed. It was an executive search firm. A substantive and reputable international entity needed help with a major, long-term health research project critical to the children of its nation and I had been pinpointed as one of the best people in the world capable of addressing their problem. I couldn't then imagine the scope or scale of the new adventure that awaited me.

Children of the Kingdom is my memoir, travelogue, and science current events story concerning a Middle-Eastern society in transition, the intrigue of an oil-rich monarchy maintaining a precarious balance with its country's religious extremists, the passions that naturally swirl around ancient cultural traditions, and emerging genetic science. Then there's my wife Mary Ann and I, mature Western expats walking the line between respecting and learning about the culture of our host country and discovering how to enjoy life abroad under a restrictive Islamic regime.

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Customer Reviews

This is a book that is about a changing Saudi Arabia, the globalization of concern for children, the power of science, a family adventure, and hope. But mostly, it s about one scholar's lifelong goal of improving the lives of children at risk and one Prince s goal of improving the lives of the children of his nation. It is a tale of possibility. We need many more like it. -- --Timothy Shriver, Chairman, Special Olympics International

Dr. Terry Dolan received his B.A. in Psychology from Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, S.D., in 1962 and a Ph.D. in Psychology and Physiology at the University of Texas Austin in 1966. After four years of post-doctoral research and training at the Center for Neural Sciences at Indiana University, he began a 36-year academic career in research and science administration. Among his positions were Director of the Parmly Hearing Institute at Loyola University in Chicago, as well as a Professor in the Psychology Department and the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School. In 1976 he became Program Director in the Behavioral and Neural Sciences at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. He spent 1977-78 as a Von Humboldt Scholar at the Neurophysiology Institute at the University of Erlangen Nuremberg in Germany. In 1982, Dr. Dolan became the Director of the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin Madison and under his tutelage the center became one of the largest research centers in the world on human development and developmental disabilities. At UW Madison he held professorial appointments in the Departments of Neurology, Neurophysiology, and Psychology. While at the Waisman Center, Dolan was elected President of the Association of Mental Retardation Research Centers in the United States, the President of the American Association of University Programs for People with Disabilities, and the President of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. While President of the IASSIDD, the organization expanded membership into 76 countries. In 2001, after 20 years at the helm of the Waisman Center, Dr. Dolan was recruited by the Royal Family of Saudi Arabia, namely Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz, to develop a national research and treatment center on childhood diseases and disabilities for Saudi Arabia. The incidence of profound childhood diseases in the Middle East is approximately 15 to 20 times greater than that found in Western cultures, a problem of nearly epidemic proportions. The Prince Salman Center for Disability Research is now the only center of its kind in the Middle East outside of Israel. Under his directorship, and the subsequent collaboration and continuation of the directorship by Dr. Steven Schroeder, the Center developed both intramural and extramural research programs, many of which continue. Approximately 200 scientists from the United States and Europe were involved in peer review or other activities associated with the center.

Among other simultaneous activities during his career, Dr. Dolan was the Personal Science Advisor to Eunice Kennedy-Shriver for the 15 years prior to her death. In the mid-1990s he traveled with Sargent Shriver to the Soviet Union to start Special Olympics there a very successful enterprise. He has been a member or advisor of the Executive Board of the Kennedy Foundation, Best Buddies International, International Special Olympics, and the Advisory Council of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, as well as a National Science Foundation representative to the National Institute on Neurological Diseases and Health and the National Eye Institute at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Dolan and his wife Mary Ann Mechtenberg Dolan have four children and seven grandchildren and live in Glenview, IL.

What would it be like to move from the United States to Saudi Arabia for several years to work and live there? And, what if your work involved collaborating with a Saudi Prince to help eradicate birth deficits in Saudi Arabia? This isn't some farfetched idea for a movie or novel, it is the experience of Dr. Terry Dolan of Madison Wisconsin and his wife, Mary Ann. Learn of their amazing adventure in a compelling story of surprises, adjustments, frustrations, and triumphs. Along the way Dr. Dolan will clearly explain a serious genetic challenge facing many countries like Saudi Arabia that is a likely cause of high incidents of birth deficits that Dr. Dolan hoped to reduce.

I was always curious how an American might be received while traveling to Saudi Arabia and how to deal with the cultural differences. I got my answer as I was reading this easy to read interesting memoir. I was impressed on how Dr. Dolan, a middle age American scientist, and wife boldly picked up and moved from the mid-west to Saudi Arabia to investigate the reasons of increased birth defects in new born children in the kingdom. Their experiences working and adjusting socially are described with humor and candor. I recommend this book highly.

Great and interesting read! The story of an American scientist and his family's adventures in Saudi Arabia was fascinating!

This is a really interesting and enjoyable read. As a professional working in cultural exchange, I found the descriptions of this American family living in the Middle East to be very relatable. The science/public health aspects of this memoir are very interesting and accessible to a non-expert like myself. This is a very quick read and I got a lot out of it. I already recommended it for my book club.
Rating: Highly Recommend!

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