

The Friendship of Jesus & Muslims

Pastor Dennis Mason attended The Friendship of Jesus & Muslims Conference on behalf of the Kansas District. At the request of Rev. Mark Frith, Pastor Mason is writing a series of articles about what he learned at the conference. The articles are available to download from the Mission & Stewardship Department web page - http://www.kslcms.org/ks_departments/mission_stewardship/index.htm.

Many Muslims have recently come to the United States of America to work and live. More will emigrate here. Others have resided in the States for several generations and many have already raised their families, most to be Muslims. Perhaps you've noticed that large communities of Muslims reside together in several states. Many are coming to live in Kansas, a people which are already culturally diverse, having experienced a pluralism of religions.

Muslims, practicing Islam, are not Christians. Should we care?

Bible Students know the answer. Jesus suffered and died for ALL that they may receive Triune God's salvation from existence in Hell without Him; Muslims are included in "ALL." Jesus cared then for them and does so now.

Muslims are not Christians. Do we care?

At this time in history, we should not remain ignorant of what Muslims believe and say and do. Various Muslim countries and several Muslim organizations influence the United States in many ways, not always for the best. Some consider devout Muslims to be a threat to the country and our way of life.

Thanks to the so-called freedom of the press and the "unfettered" exchange of ideas, many resources exist, which the concerned may consult, in order to better understand the numerous Islamic peoples already in our society. Sources note that there are variations in this religion, and also that diverse ideologies have evolved from the variations. There is conflict among Islamic peoples because of these variations. Available resources also examine difficulties which have arisen when Christians and Muslims interact and compete, something ongoing in many other nations.

Because Muslim attitudes and actions seem threatening and have been proven to be harmful in other parts of the world, our dealing with their demands in this part of the world seems to be a momentous challenge. Thankfully, we may call upon the LORD and turn to His True Word for guidance. As Christ's disciples, we are to examine our attitudes and actions. We ask of our Savior and Lord that the beam from our own eye, say, as pertains to personal relationships with enemies, be removed. We do this so that we may then proceed to teach and live well as ones forgiven and restored to righteousness. Faithful disciples also desire to be filled by the Holy Spirit with the only Word that changes hearts to love God and neighbor.

What might we do to serve our Lord and Muslim neighbor?

At The Friendship of Jesus & Muslims Conference, held last April in Detroit, the 176 participants (117 men and 59 women) were encouraged to befriend Muslims - one at a time. We were encouraged to do this for the sake of their salvation from sin, death and the power of Satan.

Future installments regarding the conference will deal with some of the ways God's absolution may be brought to Muslims.