

CHRISTIANS MEETING MUSLIMS

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Dear friends,

"I'll treasure that." This was the response of a Muslim man to the handout for my presentation on "How We Understand God" at the March 15 meeting of the Muslim-Christian dialogue group at the Islamic Center of Minnesota. I had outlined key aspects of the biblical picture of God and illustrated them with numerous Scripture references, cited in full. I expect this man was happy to have the material organized for him in this way; we who know the Bible well don't perhaps realize how daunting a book it can be for those who are less familiar with it. Thanks for your prayers for that presentation. There was a bigger than usual attendance, and the afternoon went well, with Christian, Muslim and Jewish presentations on the topic, and lively discussion.

MORE PRAISES:

- For the very positive reception of my four-part series at Ezekiel Lutheran Church in River Falls, WI, concluding on March 29
- A Somali believer for whom we have prayed has gotten a good job in a public school
- For the invitation to do an "Intro to Christian Witness to Muslims" for the youth of the Oromo (Ethiopian) Lutheran congregation in Minneapolis on April 26

PETITIONS:

- That my recent presentation at the Islamic Center might open doors for further conversations with interested Muslims
- For new sources of financial support for CMM, as some cut back in these difficult economic times
- For my presentation about Christians Meeting Muslims to a pastors' conference in Northwood, Iowa on April 2
- For good preparation for classes I will guest-teach at Northwestern College in St. Paul in April
- That more Christians will reach out in friendship to Muslim acquaintances, the essential step for making some space in which the Gospel can be shared. The man I mentioned at the beginning of this letter still remembers after many years the neighbors who brought cookies for his family, a day or two after they had moved in as new immigrants.

A blessed Easter to you! May you live daily in the power of the risen Christ.

In His service,
John

(Christians Meeting Muslims is funded by gifts from congregations and individuals. Contributions can be made out to "St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church," 1901 Portland Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404, with "CMM" on the memo line.)