

Eastern Mennonite Missions

Twelve paths for Christians to develop real friendships with Muslims

“Every Muslim should have a Christian friend and every Christian should have a Muslim friend.” — David W. Shenk

Live with integrity

Never use underhanded methods or bend the truth. Always be honest. Opposition to false witness flows deeply in many Muslim communities.

Keep identity clear

Your identity is in Jesus and His kingdom — nothing else. Be transparent about your commitment to Christ.

Cultivate respect

Respect does not require that we agree. Never attack. Express concerns in peaceful ways.

Develop trust

Cultivate a spirit of listening. Aim to help.

Dialogue about the different centers

Study the differing natures of the church and the Muslim community, or *umma*. As a member of the Christian community, seek to reconcile.

Practice hospitality

The church and the *umma* are both communities of hospitality. Give a cup of cold water in Jesus' name (Mark 9:41). Muslims are usually delighted to be invited into a Christian home!

Answer the questions

Know what questions Muslims want to ask about Christianity. Be prepared to provide answers.

Confront the distortions

Muslims and Christians often participate in distortions of one another. Be a person of truth and avoid exaggerated overstatement.

Consider the choice: The Hijrah. The Cross.

Both the *umma* and the church are committed to bringing every area of life under the authority of God. However, the way to bring about this reality takes Muslims and disciples of Jesus in opposite directions.

Seek peace and pursue it

Serve in the way of Jesus without restraint.

Partner with the person of peace

Christians committed to peacemaking will discover there are Muslims who are eager to become allies in peacemaking.

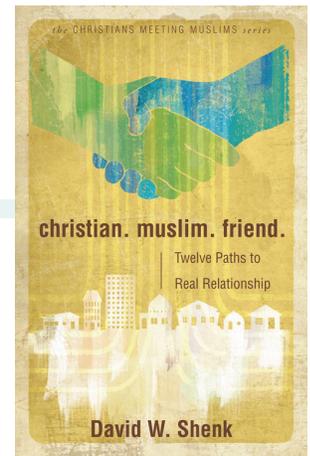
Commend Christ

Muslims cherish opportunities to talk about God. Enter the open doors.

Based on *Christian. Muslim. Friend. Twelve Paths to Real Relationship* by David W. Shenk, available at heraldpress.com.

David W. Shenk is a global consultant with EMM. He founded the Christian/Muslim Relations Team, which promotes peace, dialogue, and friendship in multiple countries each year.

More resources available at emm.org/peacemakers.



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