



CASE STUDY: CHURCH OR COMMUNITY?

Much of the Muslim world does not practise “pure” Islam, but some mixture of Islamic and folk/animistic religion. This case study tells of an event that happened to a Global Interaction staff worker serving in such a context.

The event: You’ve been in your new location for a few months. The local community is 99% Muslim. There is a church nearby made up of believers from a different ethnic group in the country. You’ve been told that the Christians and Muslims in the area have a very negative view of each other. For this reason, you haven’t visited the church since you arrived.

Christmas is approaching. You can’t imagine going through the Christmas season without attending church, so you decide to go. After the service, people come to talk with you and invite you to become involved in the church. You’ve found it difficult and lonely not being able to interact with other believers, but you know that involvement with the local church will require time and energy that you would not be able to devote to the Muslims you are trying to reach. What would you do?

How would you respond in this situation?

1. Get heavily involved with the church hoping to change their view of Muslims and promote outreach.
2. Get involved in the church in a limited way (e.g. only attend Sunday morning services).
3. Don’t go to the church again.
4. Other _____





GLOBAL | INTERACTION

CHURCH OR COMMUNITY: CONTINUED

Real life response: We attended local church services at Christmas and Easter. Based on our understanding of the view local Muslims have of local Christians, we believe involvement in the church would decrease our chances of being accepted and respected by the Muslim community. We worship in our home as a family, and tell people as we have opportunity that we read the Word of God, sing and pray at home.

What we could have done in hindsight: We could have found an appropriate story to tell from the Bible.

