

Update, Dec. 11, 2017, Dialogue with Moslems, Is it Possible?

Please pardon the delay in describing what Dr. Bob Brenneman did at Woodbury Presbyterian Church, (an evangelical mega church), Eden Prairie, MN, Good Friday, 11 am-1 pm, April 14, 2017. Because of my transfer from St. Paul, MN, to Tewksbury, MA, I was unable to post this until now.

For the second year in a row, about 80 Evangelical Christians gathered on Good Friday at Woodbury Presbyterian Church to pray and discuss presenting Jesus Christ to Moslems. Dr. Brenneman opened the meeting with an explanation of the verse in the Koran (4:157) which has given rise to many Islamic explanations that Christ did not die on the Cross.

He then invited me to testify about St. Eugene de Mazenod's visit to a mosque in Tunisia in 1842, when he and several other clergy observed the Friday prayer. Lamenting that these Moslems do not know Christ, he nonetheless urged that "unworthy Christians, who do not know how to pray and who daily profane our temples by their irreverence," would imitate Moslem devotion at public prayer. I also described the 24 year old Eugene's conversion experience on Good Friday, 1807.

Although I was the only Catholic in the group, and wearing my Roman collar too, I felt very welcomed. We then prayed at our tables, which held about 8 people, from a program of 10 topics, beginning with a description of Twin Cities, MN, "Muslim People Groups," and ending with "Our Muslim Friends," that God would stir up a curiosity in them to learn more about Jesus.

We heard from two Moslems who have accepted Christ and are looking for an hospitable church.

The entire event raised a significant question: What can Moslems retain of their culture when they accept Christ? How much of Islamic religion must be given up?

Please keep in your prayers Dr. Brenneman and all who minister to Moslems.