

ENGAGING MUSLIMS

hosted by Mike Shipman and Peter Adebayo

CASE STUDY:

THE GREATER MAVUNO MUSLIM NEIGHBORS

Greater Mavuno District lies along a major trade route and has seen a steady growth in Muslim communities over the past decade. Markets, schools, and neighborhoods increasingly include Muslim families—many of whom have never heard a clear presentation of the gospel.

Several churches in the district sense God's leading to engage their Muslim neighbors intentionally. Yet as plans form, deep questions emerge.

THE SITUATIONS

1. **THE OPEN DOOR** - Opportunity Without Preparation

A group of church members begin visiting Muslim neighbors informally. Conversations are friendly, but questions about Jesus, the Bible, and Muhammad arise. The church realizes: "We have open doors—but we are not prepared to walk through them wisely."

2. **THE CONTEXTUALIZATION DEBATE** - How Far Is Too Far?

A missionary trained in Muslim contexts encourages:

- Using Islamic terminology for God
- Adopting cultural forms of prayer
- Avoiding public Christian language early on

Some pastors affirm the approach. Others fear it blurs the gospel.

3. **FEAR AND SILENCE** - When the Church Pulls Back

Another church in Mavuno has chosen not to engage Muslims at all, citing:

- Fear of conflict or persecution
- Concern about community backlash
- Uncertainty about legal and social consequences

One elder admits: "We believe Muslims need Christ—but we don't know how to engage without risking everything."

THE TENSION

As church leaders gather, questions surface:

- What must never be compromised when engaging Muslims?
- How do we distinguish culture from theology?
- How patient should gospel proclamation be?
- How do we prepare believers for misunderstanding or opposition?

A pastor summarizes the challenge: "We do not want to be silent—but we also do not want to be unclear."

