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Review of

Meeting Our Multifaith Neighbors

Brice H. Balmer

Ken Badley

In his book, *Meeting Our Multifaith Neighbors*, Brice Balmer commits to print his observations and conclusions from several decades of involvement in both Christian social action and interfaith dialogue. He speaks as the director of House of Friendship (a Christian social agency in Waterloo, Ontario), as an adopted Canadian who moved from the United States some decades ago and as someone centrally involved with Interfaith Grand River (a Waterloo organization formed to facilitate interfaith dialogue and understanding).

Balmer also speaks humbly and invitingly. Wanting to offer his readers reasons and strategies to engage in what he calls "respectful conversations" with followers of other faiths, he moves comfortably back and forth between narrative and explanation, patiently building his case that Christians need to listen as followers of other faiths explain how they see the world. Not once does Balmer write as if he has interfaith dialogue figured out better than the rest of us (although he most probably does).

Balmer’s experience has been that dialogue will lead not only to deeper understanding of one's neighbour, but will also produce a transformation in one's own perspective. Doubtless the prospect of such transformation repels some followers of every faith from dialogue. Yet Blamer believes dialogue and the transformation that results deepen faith rather than watering it down.

Blamer’s volume contains its own review/response by Stanley Green, a Mennonite mission leader. Green raises a question that many evangelical Christians will echo: "Is there another way between conversation-without-respect and tolerance-without-conversion?" Balmer does not solve this conundrum but this book invitingly advances the discussion and should bring some new Christian participants into the multifaith conversation.