



**“YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR  
AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF.”**

## Who is my



## Neighbor?

- **Next door and your entire subdivision**
- **Needing help in your immediate path**
- **Not your race or belief system**

An expert of the law in Luke 10:25-37 tried to test Jesus with his own goodness to justify himself in his good works for eternal life. **“Who is my neighbor?”**

**Consequence setup by God:** *“But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’”* **“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”** *The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him. Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”*

So ironic the Priest and Levite (knowing the Law) just walked on the other side not even calling the ambulance! Amazingly **“neighbors”** come to us in the most unexpected ways or we go to them in the most unexpected places.

**Not a consequence** - when God has physically settled us in the neighborhood or street we live. Pray each day for every home on your street. A letter sent to each neighbor of your concerns and blessings for their well being can be amazing.

**Not a consequence** - when God allows us to meet people anywhere in the course of our day. Every stop we make, every isle we walk God as someone for you to meet.

**Not a consequence** - when God “impresses on our hearts” to enter places where we have never been! The pictures above denote two major religions in our own town – mosque and a Hindu Temple (shown above).

**Not a consequence** - when God calls you to leave your job or all your comfort zones to another country with another language, race, culture, and way of living.

**Consequence** - when God remains anonymous! Get ready

**Without a doubt the major world religions have come to our door steps in Gwinnett County.**

### **BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir** – Hindu

The 32,000 Sq. Ft. \$19 million temple is the largest one in North America. On 30 acres in Lilburn, GA it was hand carved by 900 volunteers in India. 34,450 pieces of stone weighing 12,300 tons of incredible Italian Carrara, Turkish limestone marble, and Indian pink sand stone spiraling all in place at its height of 75 feet. The interior is stunning beyond detailed description. No shoes allowed inside.

The monks dressed in orange prepare food for the in animate shrines with prayers singing and smoke. This is followed by the ceremony of kneeling kissing the floor in front of the shrines. Outside there is a water ceremony for families to pour on a statue and circle around several times. There are signs and pictures on the wall to read. Swaminarayan is the main prophet who learned all the Hindu teachings walking 700 miles across India. Their religious focus is God being expressed through nature, animals, and people.

**In prayer on the property**, We are asking the Lord’s favor to open doors of communication with the priests who are very secluded. They are a very sincere people group and can be open to the Gospel on an individual basis. Prayer walks there are accessible that God will open their hearts the Gospel.

### **Masjid Omar Bin Abdul Aziz Mosque**

There are at least 10 mosques in the Atlanta area. Entering the mosque on 955 Harbin Rd. is a repeat from several years ago. It was one of those “impression from God moments”.

Being such a long time returning there, I was reminded to remove my shoes at their prayer gathering time. Fortunately I was lead to meet their Iman Afsar Ali (director) of the Mosque. Our very cordial visit lead later to a luncheon with Ali at an Arabic restaurant with Pastor TJ Bennett. Their profession of only one God and Muhammad the messenger. This requires 5 times daily prayer, purification in Wudu rituals with standing, bowing, and prostrate.

**Both religions** have a deep respect for God with celebrations, feelings, pains, reverence, trials, disappointments, prosperity, and brotherly love. But their God is either in creation to see and touch “it” or He is too remote from us only to worship by repeated rituals and rules in good deeds to inherit heaven. **On the contrary**, God is Spirit. Through His only Son Jesus, God gave us access to worship and glorify Him in spirit and truth in a personal relationship with Him as their Savior and Lord.