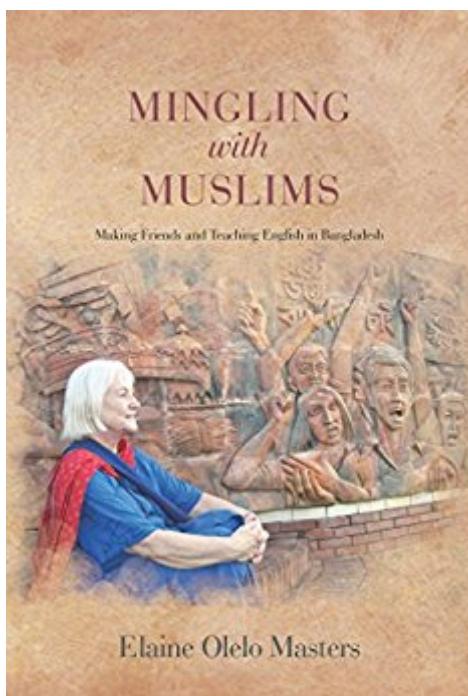


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# Mingling With Muslims: Making Friends And Teaching English In Bangladesh



## **Synopsis**

Watching the news, we may think that Muslims are cruel, blood-thirsty fanatics, but Muslims come in many different persuasions. The welding apprentices studying English with Elaine in Bangladesh were suspicious at first (Are you going convert us?), the men at Dhaka University and her hotel were craving American green cards (Beautiful lady, you marry me, yes?) but she soon won their hearts as she taught English and shared their lives. Over five years, she learned that, like any other culture, there are many variations. You'll be right with her, waking at 5 am as many mosques call you to prayer, then sweating in rickshaws, hiking in tea plantations, closing your eyes at four-lanes of traffic on two-lane highways, choking on thick air pollution. Also attending an opulent, quarrelsome Muslim wedding and a simple friendly Christian wedding, getting your hands decorated with henna, delighted with surprise birthday cakes from students and friends, and weeping over street urchins and maimed beggars. You'll be amazed at how many people can be stuffed into such a small geographic area, probably the most crowded country in the world after Singapore. How does a Christian woman stay true to her faith in a country that forbids proselytizing? She tells of her own experiences with God. Planting seeds.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

Of course I gave it 5 stars, I wrote it! However, this was my first time to publish with Create Space. Comparing working with them as compared to other publishers I've published with (this was my 20th book) I found them easy to deal with, quick to answer their "help" line, and quickly producing a quality product. I'm disappointed that they no longer have an option to place it on e-readers other than their own, Kindle. I personally own a Nook. I am pleased to get the story out to the world, however. It tells of my experiences during almost five years in the Muslim country of Bangladesh. I had already lived in Indonesia and Saudi Arabia, so it was interesting for me to compare how Muslim cultural practices vary in different places. *MINGLING WITH MUSLIMS* tells the good and the bad, the wonderful and the woeful events of a foreigner living in a Muslim culture. I found that some Muslims are extremists, some are peaceful, and some just follow whatever their friends say, not really knowing what is in their holy book. That's probably true of most religions in other countries! Friends are telling me it's a great read!

Such a timely book. We must be careful to not broad brush all Muslims as potential terrorists but regard them as fellow human beings created by God, regardless of how misled Christians may view them. Love is always the greatest weapon. We must reach out to them rather than shun and prejudge them. Elaine's book is perfect example of how love wins people. I strongly recommend *Mingling with Muslims*.

Excellent book everyone should read!

I very much enjoyed this story about Elaine Master's travels and travails in Bangladesh. After the tragedy of 9/11, Elaine hears a calling to go live amongst Muslims and show them that Westerners are not the enemy. She uses gentle methods, such as teaching English using fun exercises that transform the stodgy approach to learning taken by other teachers in the past. Imagine her instructing a group of Bangladeshi men to sing "Old MacDonald Had A Farm". She asks herself "Would they feel demeaned?" In actuality, it turns out that, "They vied with each other to name new animals and figure out their sounds." Her offbeat methods endear her students to her, and we watch as the perspectives of those around her begin to shift. While I say Elaine's methods are gentle, there

is still a stubborn streak running through her that makes the book fun to read. She tells of horrifying pollution, and power outages, and having to boil her water for 30 minutes to make it drinkable. She tells of riding through treacherous traffic in rickshaws that shake your teeth and bones, and of floods rising halfway up the wheels. She suffers bouts of serious food poisoning, both awful and dangerous. Her award-winning writing style comes out in some of her lovely descriptions: "Houses at the edge of the waterways stood on stilts, looking like big crouching spiders" and, "groups of women looked like flower gardens undulating in a breeze". I really like reading travel fiction, but sometimes it can get bogged down in minutia. Not so here. The story moved along at a good clip, keeping my interest the whole time. Perhaps because Elaine faced so many challenges that I kept wondering how she was going to make it through! This is a story of Christian faith, but also one that could appeal to a reader of any faith--or simply one interested in a good travel book. I got to learn all sorts of things about Bangladesh I never would have otherwise. I feel that I've entered the homes of many kind people, and have visited both big cities and the smallest of villages. I've learned about their culture, their food, and their traditions. I enjoyed every moment of it, and I was sad when I reached the end. Highly recommended.\* I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest opinion. All views are my own.\*

After 9/11, the author decides to head to Bangladesh on a quest to learn more about Muslims and also to show Muslims what Americans really are like. Many people might come up with this worthy idea, but few would actually do it. But this is one determined lady and if anyone can do it, she can. She finds a country with many problems and a hard way of life that directly affects her health. She also finds that she loves the people there and her love is reciprocated. Descriptions of the country are interesting and eye-opening. The parts of the book that I enjoyed most were the author's warm relationships with the Muslim people. Although the author kept all missionary work low key, I imagine this book would be an excellent source of information for all missionaries and others traveling in Muslim countries.

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