

From the Editor's Desk



Dear Reader, in this issue we actually have parallel between four different mechanisms of culture versus reason and faith.

In my book notes and reflection sections I have tried to relate 1) the century-long increased usage of nicotine, 2) the undiminished global slave trade, and 3) the increase in child prostitution. All three are triumphing today through very powerful cultural forces that do not seem to be amenable to normal opposition of the sort that would be mounted instantly if it became known that a deadly germ were about to arrive from Asia.

But actually the bulk of our issue this time is the continuation of a similarly powerful cultural momentum producing an entrenched mindset which as a cultural mechanism offers opposition to innovative thinking in regard to the Christian approach to Islam. I speak of a gradual increase of conviction on the part of many mission leaders today to the effect that there is a legitimate parallel between Paul's insistence on the one hand that Greeks could remain in their culture (and alter merely their faith as Greek followers of Christ without becoming Jews), and on the other hand the possibility of people who have grown up in the Islamic cultural tradition to retain their family ties and cultural ties, and simply alter their faith in ways to be more congruous with the Bible. Clear further parallels are mentioned in regard to Hindu, tribal and even Jewish cultural traditions.

I am sure this last statement puts me clearly on the side of those who believe that a Muslim doesn't have to call himself a Christian in order to follow Christ. I said this 30 years ago when I wrote a chapter called "Re-consecration to a War-time Lifestyle" which has been a chapter in the *Perspectives Reader* all these years. I say this not so much as taking sides as a case of disclosure.

At the same time, we are going to great lengths to allow our readers to be exposed to contrary points of view that would defend conventional outreach to Islamic peoples.

Thus, we have four different issues that have a common link in terms of the seemingly undefeatable momentum of history and convention. They are all important issues, but by far the most important is the one that involves the spread of the Christian faith without requiring the spread of "Christian" culture. As always our readers are encouraged to respond and we will do our best to enable those responses to be heard in later issues. Indeed, one reader's response (Waterman) is now an article in this issue, and yet another addresses

IJFM

April-June 2007

Volume 24:2

Editor

Ralph D. Winter

Managing Editor

Rory Clark

Consulting Editors

Rick Brown, Gavriel Gefen, Herbert Hofer, Rebecca Lewis, H. L. Richard

Layout

Rory Clark, Sara Rodriguez, Anna Gandy

Secretary

Marjorie Clark

Publisher

Bradley Gill, representing the student-level meeting at Edinburgh 1980.

2007 ISFM Executive Committee

Chong Kim, Greg Parsons, Timothy Tennent, Kevin Higgins, Rory Clark

Web Site

www.ijfm.org

Editorial Correspondence

1539 East Howard Street
Pasadena, CA 91104
(626) 398-2108, ijfm@wciu.edu

Subscriptions

One year (four issues) \$18.00
Two years (eight issues) \$34.00
Three years (twelve issues) \$48.00
Single copies \$4.00, multiple copies \$3.00
Payment must be enclosed with orders. Subscriptions are automatically renewed and billed each year unless we receive instructions to cancel. Please supply us with current address and change of address when necessary.

Send all subscription correspondence to:

IJFM

1539 East Howard Street

Pasadena, CA 91104

Tel: (626) 398-2114

Fax: (626) 398-2101

Email: ijfm_subscriptions@wciu.edu

IJFM (ISSN #0743-2529) was established in 1984 by the International Student Leaders Coalition for Frontier Missions. It is published quarterly by William Carey International University Press.

COPYRIGHT ©2007 International Student Leaders Coalition for Frontier Missions.

PRINTED in the USA

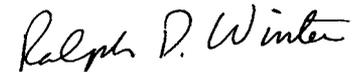
some of his concerns—which is why we're 16 pages thicker than usual!)

This issue winds up our coverage of the outstanding meeting last fall of the International Society for Frontier Missiology (ISFM). But immediately below these words is the announcement of the next meeting of this keen advanced-thinking meeting, September 15-17 in Dallas.

The theme is there. Yes, there is significant "Insider" thinking going on in the Hindu sphere. Yes, there are other flash points. Although this announcement does not say so, yes, this meeting is just prior to the annual executives meeting of the Evangelical Fellowship of Mission Agencies (EFMA). *Remember, the ISFM is the only scholarly society which is intention-*

ally and determinedly intergenerational. Students, teachers, scholars, executives are all welcome! Last fall we had some 80 attending.

Ralph D. Winter



Editor, IJFM

ISFM

Int'l Society for Frontier Missiology

Don't miss this meeting!

India: Debating Global Missiological Flashpoints

While unique in its diversity and complexity, the Indian subcontinent is also a microcosm of current missiological challenges faced by workers in many contexts around the world (Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, other). We invite you to join us as we prayerfully consider these flashpoints.

Where: Dallas, Texas

When: September 15-17, 2007

For more information: www.ijfm.org/isfm

The IJFM is published in the name of the International Student Leaders Coalition for Frontier Missions, a fellowship of younger leaders committed to the purposes of the twin consultations of Edinburgh 1980: *The World Consultation on Frontier Missions* and the *International Student Consultation on Frontier Missions*. As an expression of the ongoing concerns of Edinburgh 1980, the IJFM seeks to:

- ☞ promote intergenerational dialogue between senior and junior mission leaders;
- ☞ cultivate an international fraternity of thought in the development of frontier missiology;
- ☞ highlight the need to maintain, renew, and create mission agencies as vehicles for frontier missions;
- ☞ encourage multidimensional and interdisciplinary studies;
- ☞ foster spiritual devotion as well as intellectual growth; and
- ☞ advocate "A Church for Every People."

Mission frontiers, like other frontiers, represent boundaries or barriers beyond which we must go yet beyond which we may not be able to see clearly and boundaries which may even be disputed or denied. Their study involves the discovery and evaluation of the unknown or even the reevaluation of the known. But unlike other frontiers, mission frontiers is a subject specifically concerned to explore and exposit areas and ideas and insights related to the glorification of God in all the nations (peoples) of the world, "to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God." (Acts 26:18)

Subscribers and other readers of the IJFM (due to ongoing promotion) come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Mission professors, field missionaries, young adult mission mobilizers, college librarians, mission executives, and mission researchers all look to the IJFM for the latest thinking in frontier missiology.