

From the Editor's Desk



Dear Reader,

Brad Gill, as our masthead indicates, was a prime mover in the youth mission conference at Edinburgh in 1980—the first global meeting like Edinburgh 1910 since 1910. He's still around, not remotely an “old man” although that 1980 meeting is now 27 years behind us. Since *IJFM* is itself a creation of that particular youth initiative (see Gordon Aeschliman's original editorial, p. 11) it seems only logical, at the time of our 25th Anniversary, that we allow Gill a voice. His outspokenly candid insights about what *IJFM* has been, what *IJFM* ought to be, and where he stands are penetrating (p. 5–9).

This issue is intended to tie together three ordinarily disparate subjects. One is the result of wanting earnestly and urgently for our global actions to be freed from the key terms of a mixed legacy. “Three dimensional” terminology is Rick Love's proposal. Herbert Hoefler weighs in with a backdrop of India, where to be a “Christian” is a legal accomplishment as well as undesirable for millions.

A second, related, matter is the surprising suggestion of Professor Robert Woodberry (son of Dudley) that whatever else we do we cannot turn our backs on the word *missionary*. The vast research he is drawing on brings a great deal of credibility to his proposal. You'll be surprised.

A third subject is the totally unanticipated appearance of a carefully reasoned open letter signed by 138 Muslim world leaders—and the contrasting responses that have resulted (see *IJFM* 24:4 for both the original letter and the so-called “Yale Response”). How should we respond? Both Rebecca Lewis and Rick Love take up this question in different ways.

But, whatever you do, don't miss “The Bad Scientist.” It is the work of an intelligent younger person that is no mere poetic tangent. It is central to our mission.

Enjoy,

Ralph D. Winter

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P.S. An important theme that was emphasized in early editorials (and still today) is the critical need for younger and older generations to learn from one another. For a report by a younger person on a intentionally intergenerational meeting, see the following page. Finally, for a list of the first five years of IJFM, see p. 24 and notice how contemporary many of these topics are today.

The views expressed in **IJFM** are those of the various authors and not necessarily those of the journal's editors, the International Society for Frontier Missiology or the society's executive committee.

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Closing the Gap: The "ISLCFM" Student Mission Forum

by Rachel Shivers



Intergenerational Fusion in Minneapolis

More than 40 students and young adults filled their hearts and minds with visions of missions-focused futures during the Student Mission Forum (SMF) on September 29, 2007 at the Minneapolis Marriott Hotel.

The Forum brought together young adults wanting to explore their calling in frontier missions and to learn practical lessons from each other and current mission leaders.

"I gained new perspectives on how to love God and others across cultural boundaries. These helped me redefine God's calling on my life and reconsider the meaning of drawing seekers into the Kingdom of God rather than into a religious system," said Lucas, a first-time participant.

The International Student Leaders Coalition for Frontier Mission (ISLCFM) organized and sponsored the one-day event. The passion of the ISLCFM is to connect current mission leaders with today's emerging leaders in dialogue and mentoring relationships centered around the remaining task of frontier mission. The Student Mission Forum is one event that helps to foster this much-desired intergenerational interaction.

More than a half dozen Forum presenters gave direction and advice on such issues as apostolic calling, cross-cultural concerns, spiritual warfare, financial barriers, and discerning the essence of Jesus' Good News. Speakers included Tim Lewis (Frontiers), Miriam Adeney (Seattle Pacific University) and Ralph Winter (Frontier Mission Fellowship).

The Forum also provided an open climate for young adults from across the country to meet and form relationships. A passionate cluster of four participants (who discovered a mutual desire to minister in a particular area of the Middle East) explored the potential of serving together.

"This team is still in the very embryonic stages of development, but it is growing nonetheless. We've committed to be involved in each others lives, praying with and for

each other, as well as being actively involved in befriending Saudis and Iranians here in our city," said Mary, a second-time participant.

The Forum helped further the intergenerational aspirations of the ISLCFM by providing a context for mission-minded young adults to find strength, wisdom and love through interaction with those who have gone before.

In line with its objectives, the ISLCFM is seeking current and future mission leaders who are willing to contribute to an interactive online forum covering scores of discussion topics relating to how we can make an impact for the Kingdom across cultural barriers. Please register at theturningtide.net and also look for upcoming events, like the one mentioned below. **IJFM**

News Flash: Apostolos 2008!

The ISLCFM is sponsoring a gathering of young people who have already committed their lives to the least reached people groups. It will be held at the US Center for World Mission in Pasadena, CA from August 16-19, 2008. Intergenerational discussions will focus on discovering and implementing new paradigms for seeing the gospel implanted in these unengaged people groups. For more information, contact the islcfm@gmail.com.

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.