Tennent and Richard Dialogue: Clarification Needed

Dear Editors,

Thanks again for another fantastic issue of IJFM. In reference to the dialogue between Tennent and Richard, it seems that semantic clarification may be helpful.

In his final comment Tennent states, “My point is that one cannot maintain Hindu religious identity and at the same time be a follower of Jesus Christ. If by “religious Hindu identity,” Tennent is referring to an identity based in a particular sampradayā, then his point seems to hold true: one cannot maintain an identity as a Vaishnavite (worshipper of Vishnu) and display biblical discipleship to Jesus.

However, Richard seems to argue that it is possible for a genuine disciple of Christ to be a “good” Hindu, culturally and religiously, as the Hindu religion is home to vastly different and often competing philosophies.

Raghav Krishna’s narrative in the same issue illustrates this point: it appears entirely plausible for a Krishna Bhakta to become a Krista Bhakta while remaining under the umbrella of a Hindu identity.

Name Withheld

Happy Anniversary, IJFM

Dear Editors,

For the past quarter century, the IJFM has served as an effective platform for missiological discourse and debate, dissemination of up-to-date resource information, and, since 2001, thought-provoking editorial comments by Dr. Ralph Winter. Ideas shared on the pages of the Journal have triggered fresh strategic ideas that have contributed to the advancement of the Great Commission ministry. IJFM has become an indispensable companion to mission-minded followers of Jesus Christ. Congratulations on the 25th anniversary and keep up the good work!

Tetsunao Yamamori
Senior Advisor, Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization

Dear Dr. Winter,

A great number of Chinese pastors and missionaries benefited from messages and articles by Dr. Winter and others in IJFM. Many Chinese church and mission leaders join me in sending congratulations for the 25th Anniversary of IJFM.

May there be 25 years more!

Thomas Wang
Founder and Former President, Great Commission Center, Int’l.

Dear Editors,

It is usual for a journal to be more up-to-date than a book. The IJFM not only accomplishes that, but it is a journal I go back to again and again. The word that comes to mind is source. The IJFM is the source for cutting edge mission thinking and practice.

Greg Parsons
General Director, US Center for World Mission