

Editor's Note: Messengers, Mission Fields, and Mobilization

Darrell Dorr is managing editor of the International Journal of Frontier Missions. He also serves as Center Coordinator for the U.S. Center for World Mission in Pasadena, California (USA).

It's a delight to bring you another issue of the IJFM. At press time I always feel like a proud chef who, after hours of fussing and nibbling in the kitchen, finally is permitted to parade a succession of delicacies before the seated guests. I do hope you're hungry!

This issue presents yet another varied menu. First, Michael McClymond and Tetsunao Yamamori focus on the messengers in frontier missions. While McClymond elaborates on the attitudes and motives that should characterize heralds of good news, Yamamori reflects on the intellectual perspectives required of "God's special envoys" in the latter years of this century.

Two additional articles, both excerpts from other sources, shift our attention to some of today's frontier mission fields. The excerpt from Issachar's fascinating Challenge Report on Mongolia is nothing less than a summons to action; I encourage you to obtain the entire report if you meet the specified conditions. Ken Shay, who contributed an excellent "Survey of Resources for China Watchers" in an earlier issue, here offers a selection from an equally helpful bibliography on China's ethnic minorities.

But the heart of this issue is an emphasis on the mobilization of God's people that must take place if "A Church for Every People by the Year 2000!" is to be more than an inspiring slogan. Ed Dayton provides us with a summary of a two-day consultation in 1982 that has led to significant consensus among mission leaders on the terminology and stages in reaching unreached peoples. The IJFM reprints Dayton's summary in this issue in recognition of widespread ignorance of this meeting and its conclusions. Ralph Winter, like Dayton a prime mover in the frontier missions movement, presents a sweeping proposal to harness the renewal of missions vision in the local congregation to the practical efforts of mission agencies to establish beachheads among the world's unreached peoples. Winter builds upon similar proposals (e.g., Len Bartlotti's "A Call for a Missions Renewal Movement" in IJFM 1:1, and Donald McGavran's "A Giant Step in Christian Mission" in IJFM 1:3), but he also goes far beyond these earlier proposals in both specificity and scope. Finally, Gene Adkins gives us a glimpse of the growing frontier vision within the Pentecostal and charismatic streams of the church, a development reflected in new coalitions and consultations.

My good friend Phil Foxwell rounds out this issue with a review of Harvie Conn's Reaching the Unreached. This compendium of papers given at the 1983 Reformed Consultation on Frontier Missions deserves careful study by all who care deeply about God's purposes for the nations.

You'll notice, too, that we've made some changes in the design of the IJFM as we enter a new year of publication. Since these changes have been made with you, the reader, in mind, we'd appreciate your feedback. Send your comments to me at the IJFM editorial address.

This chef and his co-workers in the kitchen hope you enjoy your meal!