

From the Editor's Desk



IN THIS ISSUE, Bob Blincoe gives us part two of his blockbuster series on major structural requirements for the freedom and effectiveness of mission agencies. (Don't for a moment assume that his comments are relevant solely for denominational boards of mission.)

After all, in Volume 18, a five part series ended pointing out that one of the granddaddy interdenominational missions (that of Hudson Taylor) almost crashed and burned after 25 years of growth without a resolution concerning the best locus for final decision making. Indeed, Taylor was so sorely tried by this tension that after a quarter a century of growth, and after truly significant growth in just the previous five years, he was ready to resign and start over.

Blincoe's examples here are not theoretical but actual. They mark major events and milestones both positive and negative and need to be pondered seriously by literally all mission structures.

At first glance the long and detailed article on the use of Scripture may seem to be a frontier only if you go back to Gutenberg. However, a second glance catapults us right into "the edge of the edge" of frontiers. Really. *This article in its own right both creates and addresses essentially a new frontier.* Very, very few who have distributed printed scriptures have ever asked the courteous but disturbing questions Brown poses and tackles. This line of thinking has absolutely revolutionary significance for dozens of ministries ranging from Wycliffe to the JESUS Film, including anyone who distributes portions—and wherever the New Testament has pretty much been assumed to be the first step forward.

Why has it taken so long to ask the simple question: Distribute which part of the Bible first? No doubt many in the field have had this question cross their minds. Few have posed it so seriously as Brown.

Rick Leatherwood is one who has. He launched the Snowflakes project on the grounds of his very credible conviction that in many areas of the world the book of Proverbs is the best foot forward, and he has had amazing success in some of the least likely high places. When you get over your embarrassment of not thinking of this idea yourself, drink in

IJFM

April-June 2002

Volume 19:2

Editor

Ralph D. Winter

Managing Editor

Rory Clark

Consulting Editor

Hans Weerstra

Layout

Rory Clark, Brian Lowther, Miriam Clark

Secretary

Barbara R. Pitts

Publisher

Bradley Gill

Web Site

www.ijfm.org

Editorial Correspondence

IJFM

1539 E Howard Street

Pasadena, CA 91104

(626) 398-2108

ijfm@wciu.edu

Subscriptions

One year (four issues) \$15.00

Two years (eight issues) \$28.00

Three years (twelve issues) \$40.00

Single copies \$5.00

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

7665 Wenda Way

El Paso, TX 79915

Tel: (915) 775-2464

Fax: (915) 775-8588

Email: 103121.2610@compuserve.com

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

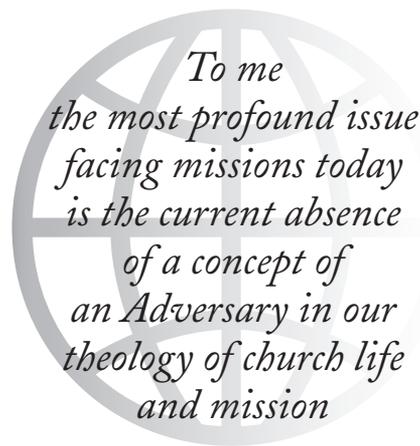
COPYRIGHT ©2002 International Student Leaders Coalition for Frontier Missions.

PRINTED in the USA

the powerful logic of an idea that has already taken off.

Now to the Shaman. To me the most profound issue facing missions today is the current absence of a concept of an Adversary in our theology of church life and mission. This is a very complex subject which we will address more extensively in later issues, but which is very humbly and unobtrusively introduced in a preliminary way in this issue. Levi DeCarvalho is uniquely qualified to address the concept of evil from an animistic perspective, having lived in a tribal society, even marrying the daughter of the chieftain.

Apparently animistic societies are more willing than our modern cultural lineage to recognize real evil in both animate and inanimate forms. They often even recognize a supreme being. But they do not often recognize a prominent, thoroughly destructive, deceptive, distorting major Adversary—any



more than in recent times we do in the West.

This frontier, to be addressed further in later issues, is the result of many missions endeavoring to push back the darkness. They may think that disease and superstition are only due to the lack of information rather than due to the work of an active highly intelligent Adversary constantly devising ghastly evil ranging from more and more clever pathogens to destructive delusions.

Yet, failure to recognize intelligent evil which is mainly out of sight is as drastic an error of judgment as it is for hospital staff to keep bandaging

open sores on the toes of a comatose woman, not realizing that the problem is one of intelligent rats at work during the night.

Please do give us feedback which we can print in successive issues.

In the pursuit of His frontiers,

Ralph D. Winter

Ralph D. Winter
Editor

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.

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.