

From the Editor's Desk



Dear Reader,

The last quarter of a century has been one of unusually creative ferment in mission thinking. For that reason, as you have probably noticed, throughout this 25th anniversary year we have been highlighting in each issue the role of the various earlier editors who have carried *IJFM* forward during the last quarter of a century. This issue, in particular, carries a much larger input from that source, partly because Hans Weerstra was editor longer than any other, being in charge from Volume 10 to 18 (from 1993 through 2001).

We must not only thank him for his effort of those nine years but also now for his insightful lead article in this issue commenting on specific issues of that period. Three things are notable:

1. You can download a PDF file of any one or all of those issues. They are not out of date.
2. Even more striking, Hans at the end of his article tells you that he will ship the original hard copies (mostly with colored covers) of any and all issues you request, up to 100 copies, for the price of shipping and handling—a flat \$20.
3. Amazingly, since *IJFM*'s 500+ articles in back issues are available to anyone with an Internet connection (www.ijfm.org), a professor anywhere can easily erect an entire “Advanced Missiology” course with no other reading materials necessary. Note that, by contrast, every textbook is out of date compared to an ongoing journal (with issues that run right up to the present)! Incidentally, an “Introduction to Frontier Missiology” course can also be developed from similarly downloadable articles (about 800, covering 1987 to present) from the *Mission Frontiers* website, www.missionfrontiers.org

But this issue of *IJFM* bustles with other key articles. I need to offer a special warning about three: 1) The one by Paul-Gordon Chandler on Mazhar Mallouhi, a Syrian believer, 2) The one written by a Lebanese believer, Nabeel T. Jabbour, and 3) The one by Tim Timmons, a former American pastor whose spectacular cross-cultural experiences exceed perhaps all others'. Why a warning? Because each of these speaks of radically unusual events and approaches in mission. The first two are excerpts from new books, which you absolutely must buy. Our excerpts are merely intended to convince you that you must buy them.

Book Notes this time revolve around the growing trend to see mission as part of the larger Gospel of the Kingdom. Not everyone is happy about this. Meanwhile the larger of the two Reflections tries to present what might be called the “least obvious truly major frontier of mission.”

Enjoy!

Ralph D. Winter

Ralph D. Winter, Editor

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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Int'l Society for Frontier Missiology

2008 Annual Meeting: Thy Kingdom Come: Are We Ready for What This Means?

Speakers:

- Dr. Ralph Winter
- Dr. Debra Buenting
- Rick Love
- Carl Medearis
- Greg Parsons
- Timothy Paul
- Jamie Winship

**Don't miss this meeting if
you're in the Denver area
on September 27-28, 2008!**

Saturday, Sept. 27

- Registration: 8:30 am
- Rick Love—*Mega-Trends in Muslim-Christian Relations*
- Carl Medearis—*Finding Jesus among Muslims*
- Jamie Winship—*From Bandung to Baghdad; A Journey to the Inside*
- Timothy Paul—*A Fragrance of Life and Death*
- Greg Parsons—*Tracking with Current Social-Business Issues: A Limited Scan of Trends*
- Dr. Debra Buenting—*Reversing the Great Reversal: Adding to the Discussion on Building the Kingdom*
- Dr. Winter—*What Is the Kingdom Era?*

Sunday, Sept. 28

- Planning for the next year of ISFM and IJFM
- Panel Discussion/Roundtable
- Dr. Winter—Closing Remarks

For more information and to register, go to: <http://ijfm.org/ISFM/Annual.htm>

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:

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