

From the Editor's Desk

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And now for something really different . . .

Those of you who read mastheads (normally the fare of insomniacs and other desperate people) have already noticed: Dr. Winter's wish to "turn over" the senior editorship of this journal has come true. For now, that means I am the default editor, while he has graduated to consulting editor status. Of course, "default" means that if there's a problem with IJFM, "de fault" is mine. Thanks for your prayers.

Thank you, Dr. Winter

On behalf of the executive committee of the International Society for Frontier Missiology and our readers, I want to thank Dr. Winter for his service to this journal over the last eight years. During his tenure we have published 1,476 pages of material, including 183 articles (18 by him), 32 editorials (31 by him), 6 guest editorials, 102 book reviews/notes, and 53 editorial reflections (all by him).

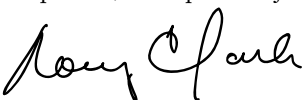
Now without sounding too much like an Academy award winner, I would like to thank some others, especially our new managing editors Chris and Anya Gandy. Unlike someone else I know, they actually have administrative gifts and can wear the title of "managing editor" without fear of contradiction or irony. The masthead contains the names of yet others without whom this journal would not be possible. Oh, and I'd like to thank my parents, my wife and children, my eighth-grade language arts teacher . . .

In this issue

This time we bring you the last two papers from the 2008 ISFM conference. Ralph Winter and Debra Buening look in different ways at the legacy and causes of the so-called "Great Reversal" from what Winter calls 19th century "broad evangelism" to a 20th century "narrow personal salvation" orientation. For Winter, the cause is more social than theological. See what you think. Buening provides an added dimension, tracing Youth With A Mission's (YWAM) journey into a new era.

Except for Bradford Greer's article (which raises practical theological issues readers will likely either find disturbing or liberating), the remaining papers engage the relationship between social networks and movements to Christ. Can we point to specific practices or paradigms that contribute to movements or fruitful church plants? Until recently, *empirical* support for one practice or another has been lacking. Last year *From Seed to Fruit: Global Trends, Fruitful Practices, and Emerging Issues among Muslims* (J. Dudley Woodberry, ed., 2008, William Carey Library) brought us an initial review of data collected from 280 workers from across the Muslim world. A deeper analysis of this data appears here (with more to come in future issues) in two papers from the Fruitful Practices Research Fellowship. Gray & Gray use qualitative methods to mine some really fascinating interviews (some of which you can read), while Brown et al.'s quantitative analysis is sure to generate some letters to the editor (letters@ijfm.org). Rebecca Lewis' paper, while not based on the "Fruitful Practices" corpus, can be considered a companion piece. Read on!

Finally, as you peruse this issue, you'll discover yet more that's new. On page 4, there's a handy new chart for Perspectives presenters and students. On page 44, you'll find an index of last year's articles/books. And on p. 49, we have a new section of resources outside of the IJFM: *In Others' Words*. Notice, too, our new e-mail addresses for subscriptions (subscriptions@ijfm.org) and editorial correspondence (editors@ijfm.org).



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