

From the Editor's Desk

IJFM

July–September 2009

Volume 26:3

Back to the Future

The year: 2009. The date: September 15, 16 or 17. Excluding for the sake of discussion the inevitable exception (and you know who you are), if you're reading this on one of those three dates, we'd like to welcome you to the ISFM here in Orlando! If not, we're sorry you missed the discussions on "Best Practices in Frontier Mission"; but don't lose hope, you still have options.

Option 1: Find someone with a plutonium-powered, flux capacitor equipped DeLorean hybrid and have them send you back in time to September 15, 2009.

Option 2: Wait for the next *IJFM* and read the proceedings there. To decide between options 1 and 2, weigh the *benefits* of interacting personally with the great ISFM speakers and participants with the *costs* (both financial and ethical) of obtaining the needed plutonium.

Option 3: Ask Steve Saint or my friend Troy Townsend at I-TEC if their new flying car comes standard with time travel capabilities, or if time travel is available as an upgrade. (Tell them Rory sent you.)

OK, let's get serious for a moment. As was evident in the May–August issue of *Mission Frontiers* (available for download at missionfrontiers.org) and at his memorial service (see vimeo.com/5791707), Dr. Winter's death has been a "back to the future" experience for many. Looking back, we rejoice in the ways his life influenced ours and helped spur a movement to a greater understanding of—and obedience to—Jesus' Commission. Looking ahead, we anticipate how God will use our lives to bear fruit for the sake of His name.

During the ISFM we'll take time to remember him appropriately (see p. 109, this issue, for this journal's tribute to Dr. Winter). He may not be here in the flesh to stretch our thinking *again*, but his imprint on the Society he helped found almost 23 years ago—especially his relentless focus on obeying the biblical mandates—is unmistakable.

In This Issue

Back to the present. This issue, prepared in time for this ISFM, represents some of the quintessential concerns of this Society. The articles here reflect insights and challenges from Muslim, Hindu, tribal, and even Buddhist contexts.

Fruitful Practices. Since four of the twelve slated presenters or responders this year are a part of the Fruitful Practices Taskforce, it's understandable that we would give Adams et al. twelve pages to flesh out in more detail the things we've been reading about in the last three issues of *IJFM*. As you read through the list, compare their findings to your own situation. Do they ring true? What about outside the Muslim context of ministry?

Bible Translation. Is it possible for a Bible translation project to fail to impact the lives of its intended audience? Wycliffe veteran T. Wayne Dye tackled this issue last time, providing eight areas of concern that we'd better not ignore. This time, he zeros in on the one we can do the most about right now: *accessibility*.

Contextualization of theology, Animism. Drawing from his experiences in Mozambique, Alan Howell reminds us that our favorite metaphor for what Jesus'

(continued on p. 148)

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Subscriptions

One year (four issues) \$18.00
Two years (eight issues) \$34.00
Three years (twelve issues) \$48.00
Single copies \$4.00, multiple copies \$3.00
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.
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IJFM (ISSN #0743-2529) was established in 1984 by the International Student Leaders Coalition for Frontier Missions. It is published quarterly by William Carey International University Press.

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PRINTED in the USA

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.

Whether you're a Perspectives instructor, student, or coordinator, you can continue to explore issues raised in the course reader and study guide in greater depth in **IJFM**. For ease of reference, each **IJFM** article in the table below is tied thematically to one or more of the 15 Perspectives lessons, divided into four sections: Biblical (B), Historical (H), Cultural (C) and Strategic (S). *Disclaimer: The table below shows where the content of a given article might fit; it does not imply endorsement of a particular article by the editors of the Perspectives materials.* For sake of space, the table only includes lessons related to the articles in a given **IJFM** issue. To learn more about the Perspectives course, visit www.perspectives.org.

Related Perspectives Lesson and Section

	Lesson 7. Eras of Mission History (H)	Lesson 9. The Task Remaining (H)	Lesson 10. How Shall They Hear? (C)	Lesson 11. Building Bridges of Love (C)	Lesson 13. Spontaneous Multiplication of Churches (S)	Lesson 14. Pioneer Church Planting (S)
Always Looking to the Next Frontier: A Tribute IJFM Editorial Staff (pp. 109–110)	X	X				
Fruitful Practices: A Descriptive List Allen, Harrison, Adams, Fish and Martin, eds. (pp. 111–122)				X	X	X
Scripture in an Accessible Form: The Most Common Avenue to Increased Scripture Engagement Dye (pp. 123–128)			X			
Impacting the Hindu Diaspora in North America Paul (pp. 129–133)			X			
Through the Kaleidoscope: Animism, Contextualization, and the Atonement Howell (pp. 135–142)			X			X

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." (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.