

In Others' Words

Editor's Note: In this department, we point you to resources outside of the IJFM that we hope you'll find helpful: other journals, print resources, DVDs, web sites, blogs, YouTube videos, etc. We welcome suggestions, but cannot promise that we will publish each one we receive. Standard disclaimers on content apply. Due to the length of many web addresses, we sometimes just give the title of the article and the main web address or a suggested Google search.

The Son and the Crescent

Collin Hansen's anticipated article in *Christianity Today*, "The Son and the Crescent," finally hit the presses in February 2011 (<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/february/soncrescent.html>). Hansen offers his take on both sides of the debate about the translation of the phrase "Son of God" in the Scriptures among Muslim majority populations. He has most likely provided the broadest circulation to this issue among American Christians to date, an issue that has been debated almost exclusively by mission personnel over the past decade. He makes it clear that the paraphrasing of this Christological title is effective in certain translations and allows Muslims for the first time to respect and read the Bible. He both interviews Rick Brown and quotes from two of his 2005 *IJFM* articles on this topic (22:3 and 22:4, see ijfm.org). But he also lines up theologians who examine the fidelity of this paraphrasing. One is suspicious that Hansen's terse quotes at times can fail to contain full perspectives on such complex translation matters. The *IJFM* may call on certain of these theologians to give more complete positions in upcoming issues.

Interpreting Insider Movements

The January issue of *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* highlighted articles which attempt to reconcile perspectives on the insider approach to contextualization. Lowell de Jong's article, "Insider Believers and the Empathy of God," as well as Robert Johnson's "Toward a Greater Unity in Muslim Ministry," each examine aspects of this debate and try to increase sensitivity and better communication. The January issue of *First Things* also included an article by Gabriel Said Reynolds, "Evangelizing Islam," which attempted to address this issue.

The *Cape Town Commitment* that emerged from Lausanne's continuation efforts this past October also maintains an open and sensitive posture towards insider movements (<http://www.lausanne.org/ctcommitment>). It states the following:

Love Respects Diversity of Discipleship

So-called "insider movements" are to be found within several religions. These are groups of people who are now following Jesus as their God and Saviour. They meet together in small groups for fellowship, teaching, worship and prayer centred around Jesus and the Bible while continuing to live socially and culturally within their birth communities, including some elements of its religious observance. This is a complex phenomenon and there is much disagreement over how to respond to it. Some commend such movements. Others warn of the danger of syncretism. Syncretism, however, is a danger found among Christians everywhere as we express our faith within our own cultures. We should avoid the tendency, when we see God at work in unexpected or unfamiliar ways, either (i) hastily to classify it and promote it as a new mission strategy, or (ii) hastily to condemn it without sensitive contextual listening.

In the spirit of Barnabas who, on arrival in Antioch, "saw the evidence of the grace of God" and "was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord" (www.lausanne.org/ctcommitment#_ftn72), we would appeal to all those who are concerned with this issue to:

- Take as their primary guiding principle the apostolic decision and practice: "We should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God" (www.lausanne.org/ctcommitment#_ftn73).
- Exercise humility, patience and graciousness in recognizing the diversity of viewpoints, and conduct conversations without stridency and mutual condemnation (www.lausanne.org/ctcommitment#_ftn74).

Mobile Phone Partnering

In the last issue of *IJFM* (27:3, Fall 2010) we presented "The Little Phone That Could: Mobile-Empowered Ministry." Recently, sixteen participants from fifteen mission agencies and ministries continued in this same vein, tackling the broad picture of mobile ministry and details of how a partnership might emerge around their common vision, "that within ten years every unreached person will have had a chance to encounter Christ and His kingdom in a compelling, contextualized fashion through their personal mobile device." If you are interested in an executive summary of this meeting, you can read it at <http://tinyurl.com/MobileSummitSummary>. Feel free to write if you have any questions or comments. **IJFM**