

From the Editor's Desk

Ralph D. Winter (December 8, 1924–May 20, 2009)

After a seven-year struggle with multiple myeloma, Lyme disease, and (since February) lymphoma, innovative mission thinker and former *IJFM* editor Ralph D. Winter died peacefully at his home in Pasadena, California.

I spent a few hours with Dr. Winter the day before he died and got to give him a short update on this *IJFM*. Though too weak to respond, I think he'd be pleased with this issue, the contents of which illustrate some of his many concerns: the lasting impact of the Bible, making the gospel truly intelligible, impacting extended relational networks vs. just scattered individuals, emphasizing the kingdom of God over "religion"; I'm sure you'll find others.

As I sat beside Dr. Winter, my thoughts turned to the many hours we'd spent together (hundreds in *IJFM* meetings alone), his frequent kindnesses and encouragement, his humor, and his unique way of looking at almost everything. As I realized that this might be our last time together, I finally mustered the composure to say the things I didn't want to leave unsaid, or didn't want to say, like goodbye.

Dr. Winter abhorred hagiography and regularly deflected attention away from himself. The truth is that *IJFM* would not have made it into its 26th year—and probably not past the first issue—but for his early encouragement and later substantial personal involvement (at 77, he became the journal's "senior" editor and thereafter a regular contributor).

While his *Mission Frontiers* editorials were more widely read, the far less space-inhibited *IJFM* would become home to some of his most "outside the box" musings. (For your convenience, ijfm.org/dr-ralph-winter.html has all of his over 100 *IJFM* articles, editorials, editorial reflections and book notes, going back to 1984. Other articles and multimedia content—even audio of his famous 1974 Lausanne address—can be found at uscwm.org/about/rdw.html, where new material will be posted regularly. For an excellent summary of his life, see the family's obituary notice on pp. 61-62 of this issue, and the special May-June *Mission Frontiers* issue on his life and ongoing legacy.)

In This Issue and the International Society for Frontier Missiology 2009

It is fitting that this *IJFM*, which coincides with Dr. Winter's passing, includes innovative new research on issues that were close to his heart, and a book review by Dave Datema, his successor as general director of the Frontier Mission Fellowship. If you'd like to explore this line of research further, we invite you to Orlando, Florida for this year's annual meeting of the ISFM (September 15–17, right before CrossGlobal Link/EMS). Our theme this year is "Best Practices in Frontier Mission." Join us now (and in September) as we ask, In what ways is God using cross-cultural workers to most effectively make Christ known among unreached peoples, to disciple believers, to train leaders, to foster faith communities, and to nurture sustainable movements? And which of these ways seem most fruitful in different socio-religious contexts? For more information on the ISFM, see pp. 62, 103 and www.ijfm.org/isfm.

As you make your way through this *IJFM*, ask yourself: Are we simply talking about more fruitful practices, heart language, or social networks? Or is a paradigm shift really afoot? What is at stake if we heed or disregard what we read here? Let's continue to think together and humbly ask God to make his ways known among all peoples.



Rory Clark, Editor, *IJFM*

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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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

Articles in **IJFM** 26:2

	Lesson 8. Pioneers of the World Christian Movement (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)
Renowned Strategist Redirected Church's Worldwide Mission Efforts, Ralph Winter (1924-2009) , (pp. 61–62)	X				
Paradigms and Praxis, Part II: Why Are Some Workers Changing Paradigms? Gray & Gray (pp. 63–73)				X	X
Seven Themes of Fruitfulness Adams, Allen & Fish (pp. 75–81)			X	X	X
Like Bright Sunlight: The Benefit of Communicating in Heart Language Brown (pp. 85–88)		X			
The Eight Conditions of Scripture Engagement: Social and Cultural Factors Necessary for Vernacular Bible Translation to Achieve Maximum Effect Dye (pp. 89–98)		X	X		
The Welser Scale: A Tool for Evaluating the Conditions Dye (p. 91)		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.