

# Guest Editor's Page

by Harley Talman

On Dec 3-5, 2003, the USCWM hosted the “Church Planting Movements and Beyond” Consultation for those ministering in Muslim contexts. Presentations from all corners of the globe signaled that the Holy Spirit is initiating new paradigms of ministry to Muslims that are bearing unprecedented fruit in Church Planting Movements (CPM). Our use of the term CPM was not confined to the traditional concept of many individual Muslims within a people group converting to Christ, resulting in the multiplication of Christian churches. Rather, we enlarged CPM to also encompass “people movements” where entire families, clans, villages or social groupings decide together to follow Jesus Christ. Another CPM paradigm is “insider movements,” which we could define as large numbers of Muslims who become followers of Christ without changing either their self-perception or their communal identity as Muslims. In such movements, “church planting” is not the introduction of a specific form of organization (no matter how ‘biblical’ it may be) but merely describes the pattern of believers’ relationships that naturally follow existing social structures.

We are aware that some such paradigms are as unacceptable to many Christians as the idea of Gentile followers of Christ remaining ‘Lawless’ and uncircumcised was to the early Jewish church. This is all the more reason to research, deliberate and dialogue with one another on this matter.

In this and coming issues of the IJFM, you will have opportunity to read some of the papers that were presented at this CPM Consultation. Here you find a paradigm-shifting paper by Joshua Massey entitled “Living Like Jesus, a Torah-Observant Jew: a Guide for Incarnational Witness to Muslims.” Also, my article “Comprehensive Contextualization” offers an agenda for expanding the scope of contextualization activity in order to facilitate the development of CPMs.

We invite your response, as we seek to make the IJFM a forum for facilitating discussion of pioneer approaches. We also invite current and prospective Muslim ministry practitioners, as well as mission and church leaders, to participate in a second consultation devoted to the issue of furthering CPM among Muslims. It will be convened at the US Center for World Mission in early November 2004. (Specific dates and details are forthcoming) We invite submission of proposals for papers to be presented—and hope that some will be from women. Possible CPM topics should be along these lines:

1. Biblical studies and case studies on Church Planting Movements among Muslims
2. Presentation of new ministry concepts and paradigms for CPM

Please email us at [ims@uscwm.org](mailto:ims@uscwm.org) to propose your topic for a paper or to indicate your interest in participating in the forthcoming consultation.

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