

From the Editor's Desk



Dear reader,

By a fascinating coincidence the latest issue of *Christianity Today* highlights in its cover story the explosion of Korean missionaries, and, in particular, Samuel Kang, the executive director of the Korean World Mission Association. Kang is a veteran missionary of work in Nigeria and Dean of the Graduate School of World Mission of Seoul's famous Chongshin University.

Kang is the man who last fall invited our IJFM team over for the annual study meeting of the Korean World Mission Association. Some of the papers presented there are trickling into IJFM as well as into the brand new sister publication, the *Korean Journal of Frontier Missions* (whose colored format far outpaces ours!). The paper here by Chong Kim, a true bicultural, is remarkably comprehensive—and perhaps disturbing.

In this light, things are obviously brighter today for missions than ever before, and Rick Brown's detailed analysis of Muslim/Christian divergences and parallels is an additional and timely shaft of very bright light.

However, deep down in the heart of missions remains the unresolved interface between 1) the basic and all-important threshold achievement of salvation and eternal hope, of reconciliation between estranged humanity and Our Father in heaven, and 2) the second-level, much overlooked question of "what is next" for the redeemed believers, whether they are desperately poor or not.

Thus, regarding this second-level issue, we print this time, on the one hand, the exceedingly unusual testimony of a scientifically trained Evangelical, a Caltech graduate. He has been an active believer for years in every sense of the term. But he now feels he must stop believing a whole lot of things—in his mind most everything Christian. To his harrowingly honest word we offer a long but all-too-brief and partial response which appears in the *Editorial Reflections* section.

On the other hand, at the other end of the scale between the highly educated and the literally illiterate, we review five documents which address in one way or another the other end of the scale of the "What next" second-level question just mentioned. Thus, serious, unresolved frontiers of mission exist at both ends of the scale of rich and poor converts to faith.

Enjoy,

Ralph D. Winter

Ralph Winter
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IJFM

January-March 2006

Volume 23:1

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Publisher

Bradley Gill, representing the student-level meeting at Edinburgh 1980.

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Subscriptions

One year (four issues) \$15.00

Two years (eight issues) \$28.00

Three years (twelve issues) \$36.00

Single copies \$3.50, multiple copies \$2.50

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