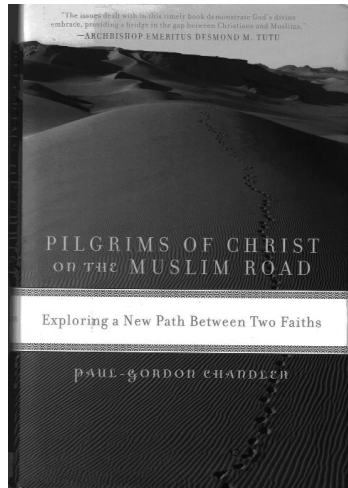


Contextualizing in the Arab world



People approach the challenge of seeing Christ and the Church made at home in the world's cultures in various ways – and this continues to be a source of much discussion and debate. Those of us living as Christ's ambassadors among Muslims of the Arab world find that these issues never go away, nor do they ever become simple. Just when we think we have finally got things figured out, something comes along to challenge our position and make us wonder if we have been too quick to come to our conclusions. Chandler's book, *Pilgrims of Christ on the Muslim Road*, is one of these disturbing challenges.

Persecution and seemingly never-ending pressure against all who name the name of Christ cause us all to ask deep questions about how to live in Muslim communities, whether we be foreigners seeking to understand and love our Muslim neighbours, or Christ's followers with a Middle Eastern heritage. This issue of *Seedbed* raises old issues once again, but by fleshing them out through the example of one person's attempt to be a faithful Christ-follower in the Arab world, it casts fresh light on these age-old issues.

Many of us, as evangelicals, tend to prefer clear-cut beliefs. Yet, Christ did not call us to a life of comfortable answers, but to take up the cross and follow him. May this Arab pilgrim's costly example stir us to keep on picking up our cross and obeying the One who was despised and rejected by his own people, yet nevertheless, remained faithful to the One who had called him.