

Editorial

About sixty-five women workers came together recently to listen to each other on all kinds of questions related to their desire to see Christ glorified among North Africans. I was thrilled to interact personally with them at the European centre. At the same time other colleagues were attending a larger conference in Asia where they looked at church planting concerns for Muslim countries. As editor of *Seedbed* I want to continue such forums that offer encouragement and inspiration by providing this written one for the sharing of ideas.

This first issue of *Seedbed* for 2007 contains a variety of articles intended to stimulate both your thinking and your writing. It begins with the incident of Rohani meeting Christ when she came to an English lesson in a refugee camp. She was already prepared by God to search for 'signs'. May her story open another door for you in sharing the Good News with Muslim friends. Have you already come across an opportunity to answer questions about such 'signs'? Or have you a similar experience of how to point someone to Christ?

The second article directs your attention to church planting in terms of evangelism, discipleship and leadership from observations on the situation in one North African country. What comments could you make about the state of affairs in your country of ministry? How have your experiences been similar and/or different?

Once again *Seedbed* includes thoughts about the Arabic language, but this time reference is made to its place in Islam. In

what ways do you agree, or disagree, with the author? I find that his remarks about *ijtihad* and the growing reform movement among younger Muslim intellectuals, especially women, are corroborated by recent publications and documentaries in the UK. What are the trends among the intellectuals in your country?

The final article promotes a greater awareness and understanding of the globalization process taking place within our company. As we embrace the changes, we want to support one another in the adjustments that need to be made. We certainly want to encourage all our partners – of many different nationalities – to contribute their insights into ministry in the Arab world.

A challenge to engage in a variety of ways with Islam and with the present world situation comes from the three book reviews. CM points to the significant theological concerns about the divinity and death of Christ from his reading of *Christology in Dialogue with Muslims*. What can you learn from past and present theologians? Lundy draws attention to two books. The compendium, *Encountering the World of Islam*, prepares us for Christian witness and ministry to Muslims. The other one, *Longitudes and Attitudes*, relates more to the present-day political situations as author Thomas Friedman looks at the world in an age of terrorism.

I look forward to receiving your reactions and contributions in response to your reading of this *Seedbed*.

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