

Book Review: Through Her Eyes: Perspectives on Life from Christian Women Serving in the Muslim World

Reviewed by Linda Lundy

Through Her Eyes: Perspectives on Life from Christian Women Serving in the Muslim World, Marti Smith, Authentic Media, Waynesboro, GA, USA, 2005.

Marti Smith has compiled a useful book that covers the different aspects of missionary life encountered by women when serving in the Muslim world. She not only draws from her own life as missionary wife and mother, but also includes a variety of experiences from other women.

Smith reminds us that since today's mission force consists of up to two-thirds women, how women cope overseas is extremely important. She covers topics such as adjustment to the culture, perseverance and handling loneliness. In her comprehensive treatment of her subject, she suggests survival tips for new workers and discusses questions of learning the language while caring for children, managing the pressures of life and dealing with sickness.

Her aim is to look at the experiences of both single and married women (those with children as well as those without children). She tells how different women have been enabled to remain on the field while going through many adjustments as they faced various challenges. Their responses include both what worked for them and what did not work.

Other questions raised by women workers and treated in this book are:

Where and how should we live? Do we live in a predominantly Western area or in the midst of those whom we are trying to reach? What are the pros and cons? What will work for my family? What would God have me do? How will my role change when I have a child? What school should my child attend? Should I homeschool?

Women on the field often find their role changing over the years. It is important to support and encourage them to anticipate what some of these changes might entail. When women readers see how someone who is there on the field has dealt with a certain situation in her own life, they can better face similar changes and problems. These tangible examples of real life experiences make this book a useful tool, both for the orientation process and for ongoing service.

Each section is followed by a series of thought-provoking questions for the reader to ask herself or to use in discussion sessions with women colleagues. These questions are very helpful to any woman preparing for missionary work or continuing service in the Muslim world. I know they would have been helpful to me before I went to the field as well as throughout my ministry. I recommend this book as one of the best I have read for providing practical help for missionary women.