# Book Review: Camel Training Manual

*Reviewed by Dale Martin*

***Camel Training Manual,*** Kevin Greeson, WIGTake Resources, Bangalore, India, 2004. 145 pages. **{www.lanforceinc.org}**

In the forward to this book, it makes the claim that there are 250,000 Muslims who have come to faith in Christ as a result of following the methods it describes. Moreover, Mr. Greeson states that more than 7000 Muslims are coming to faith in Christ each month in one country of South Asia alone as a result of the application of these principles.

The *Camel Training Manual* is, in fact, an integration of multiple approaches woven together rather than a single method. The *Man of Peace* approach, house church multiplication theory, Henry Blackaby's *Experiencing God* approach, David Garrison's *Church Planting Movement* approach, contextualization and using the Qur'an as a bridge to the Bible all find a home in its pages. Whereas past decades saw the successive arrivals of various missing keys in how to go about Muslim evangelism, this book has put them all together onto one handy key ring.

The author reveals his goal on page 2 of the introduction when he says, 'The goal of the Camel Training seminar is nothing short of training you to be a facilitator of a massive church planting movement among Muslims in your community.' No one can accuse him of aiming low. The *Camel Training Manual* is illustrated from Kevin's years of experience in a country of South Asia where he has been working for nearly twenty years.

Most experienced workers will react with some scepticism whenever a method is proposed for reaching Muslims. However, this 'method' is relational and incorporates insights and wisdom from a number of significant sources. The main strength of what Greeson proposes is the integration of approaches which have been tried and widely implemented throughout a number of fields. The role of the missionary corresponds to what Dick Scoggins has been teaching for years.

Another strength of this book is that it takes a bold and courageous line of action rather than an overly cautious or timid one. Yet it does not attack Islam and is not objectionable to the Muslim. It is based upon taking our Christian witness to Muslims in the mosque rather than waiting around for them to come to us. It knows what it is looking for — Muslims who are already open to the gospel — and presents elements of the gospel to them in a clear way from the Qur'an, working in dependence upon and in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. If God is not drawing Muslims to Himself, this method does not work.

This is nothing if not biblical. Greeson also advances a contextualized presentation for Muslims but the underlying approach and forms of worship in the resulting churches is

minimally contextualized and he states that this became a minor issue over the years.

Overall, I feel that this 'method' is based upon an excellent integration of biblical principles and techniques which many of us have been using for a number of years in parts of North Africa. I suppose the only new element for me personally is the use of the selected verses from the Qur'an with which he begins his approach to the Muslim. I look forward to trying this out. For those who remain sceptical about this approach, there is another book which is even more radical and optimistic. It is that 21-volume library of ministry accounts that we call the New Testament.