

among many which could be given and which should serve as a warning to us. Bob concludes with a chapter on the 'Restoration of the Sacred', giving some indications as to where we need to go. But perhaps the main value of the book is in the questions it raises — so, if you want a brief but stimulating read, I would recommend it!

*Tools For Muslim Evangelism* by Roland Muller, Essence Publishing, Belleville, Canada, 2000, 216 pp. ISBN: 1-55306-157-8.

*Reviewed by Abe Wiebe*

*Tools For Muslim Evangelism* is a very perceptive and useful manuscript. Roland Muller (pen name) makes a happy opening statement that the Christian World is waking up to the fact that Muslims need to meet with the Lord Jesus Christ. He then proceeds to present a model or plan for reaching Muslims that he and others conceived and implemented in their Middle East experience. Muller maintains that it is not another "how to" book on the subject, although it certainly looks like one. Nevertheless, what gives an authentic ring is his drawing from successful evangelists and disciplers who saw lasting results in their ministry to Muslims.

The concept of "tools" comes from Muller's contention that it is the combination of methods and approaches, personality and gifting, and especially divine blessing that make the difference. Only the last factor is a constant, the rest can vary from person to

person. Moreover, these factors may also vary with each ministry opportunity as well. Yet, he then underscores two qualities of God's servants that he has discerned as absolutely basic. These, he says, are a thoroughly intimate knowledge of the Bible and a deep "cross-experience" that deals death to self and mere personal effort. Quoting Corrie Ten Boom, "God's finest tool in our lives is the tool of suffering," he points out that Muslims aren't attracted to evangelists but to the reality of God.

In the next major section Muller shares what he believes to be the most acceptable and fruitful role for a missionary or tentmaker in a Muslim context, that of the teacher-evangelist. Encouraging us to re-examine the patterns set by Jesus and by Paul the Apostle, Muller maintains that by acting the part of a teacher of religious truth we have the best avenue to gain a hearing for the Bible. Objections, he agrees, must be answered, but as long as we focus primarily on these we are in a defensive position and hemmed in by the Muslim agenda. What the Muslim needs to hear above all is a clear message about Christ and salvation in terms he can understand.

Having thus stated his basic thesis, Muller proceeds to show how this approach works its way out in Middle East culture as a whole. He dwells on contextualization and the Islamic Community, respect for core Muslim values such as shame and honor and the navigating of the crucial phase of friendship-discipling of new converts.

Sprinkled throughout are many life-drawn examples and pithy observations like "believers from a Christian background need assurance of faith, those from a Muslim background need assurance of belonging." (p 117)

The final chapter treats the question of "planting churches" in the Muslim World. While advocating the cell-church model, I found his treatment too cursory.

The closing five appendices are a useful source of information and sound advice. I especially liked the

excellent "Six Discovery Lessons," useful in leading the seeker or convert into the foundational concepts about God, Christ and the beginnings of the Christian Life.

Apart from a few grammatical-type mistakes there is little to criticize in this book. Personally I intend to consider using it as a text in a Muslim Encounter Seminar. As to where it can be obtained I would direct you to your nearest WEC office.