

MINISTRY TO MUSLIM WOMEN

by Donna Smith

New Impetus

Forty-five missionary women met in Mesa, Arizona from 13 to 16 May 1999 for the first inter mission consultation on ministry to Muslim women. Fran Love challenged the participants by her opening address, "God's Passion Released Through Us."

Muslim women

Other speakers looked at current issues affecting Muslim women and at what brings them to Christ and helps them grow spiritually. Workshops covered topics such as: "Muslim women and the occult," "Muslim women in crisis," "Islamic reformation & fundamentalism's impact on Muslim women," and "Understanding the spiritual hunger of Muslim women."

The spiritual needs for evangelism and growth were studied in small groups. They discussed "Discipleship through the story telling method," "Evangelism to and through family networks", "Building community", and "Developing leaders."

Missionary women

The needs of the workers were also examined. Missionary women shared lessons learned—sometimes through personal pain and frustration. Suggestions were made on thriving and serving in their Muslim contexts.

Formation of Task Forces

The participants identified several concerns related to ministry to Muslim women and formed working groups. They looked at the need for publica-

tions & translations, training of women workers (pre-field & ongoing), mobilization within the USA, and other tools & resources.

Training

One of the projects identified by the task force on training is to compile a list of books and other resources to circulate to women who are concerned about ministry to Muslim women. Anyone wishing to contribute to this list or to receive a copy is invited to correspond with Donna Smith through *Seedbed* or by Email: donna@wornet.org

Resources

Samples of books, articles, and other materials were available during the consultation. Tapes of all plenary sessions can be requested from the international and home offices of the participating missions. A printed compendium, including the papers presented for the discussion groups, is to be published by the autumn.

Future

Women left the consultation with a renewed vision of the significance of their ministry. They are looking for ways to improve the support of the ministries of the women in their agencies. Requests will be made for funding and time for women's events, training, and publications. One way to increase an emphasis on these ministries will be to print more articles related to work with women in *Seedbed*. Contributions are gratefully received.