

Women's Ministries Section (Book Reviews)

Invest Your Heart: A Call for Women to Evangelize Muslims, by Julia Colgate, published by Frontiers, Mesa, Arizona, 1997, 83 pages. Reviewed by Donna Smith

This book looks at attitudes as well as methods in reaching out to Muslim women. The author encourages us to invest our lives in genuine, compassionate relationships with Muslim women. Her suggestions come from her own experiences of 7 years among an unreached Muslim people group in Southeast Asia.

The following titles of the four sections of the book give a feel for the author's heart and vision: *Enjoy Muslim Women As You Build Loving Relationships*; *Tell the Truth to Muslim Women*; *Trust Jesus to Love Your Muslim Friends*; and *Continue to Love Muslim Women As They Make Spiritual Decisions*. Each section concludes with thought-provoking application questions for personal use or team discussions.

Julia Colgate observed patterns in her ministry to Muslim women and patterns of their response. Her system of evaluation is given in detail in the Appendix. Her chart is a helpful debriefing tool to show the felt-needs of the women of her people group and which methods seemed to touch their hearts. She comments on the value of this chart, "It not only showed me my methodologies but my preferences, my true areas of giftedness, my weaknesses and my failures." Such an evaluation helped her to adjust and to see that her priority was not

simply to win women to Christ but to nurture them to maturity in Christ.

I particularly recommend this book for its prayerful, loving approach to ministry among Muslim women. As workers among these women we can benefit from the challenging questions and perceptive analysis of ministry.

Lifting the Veil: A Handbook for Building Bridges Across the Cultural Chasm, by Trudie Crawford, published by Apples of Gold, 1997, 33 pages. For additional copies, write: *Lifting the Veil*, P.O. Box 49757, Colorado Springs, CO 80949, USA. Reviewed by Donna Smith

Trudie Crawford has given us a gold mine of suggestions for ministry to Muslim women. She has written her little book out of a love for Muslim women and a concern for witness to them by believing women. A central part of the book points to the importance of storytelling to communicate truth. To this is added the suggestion that such a message can carry great influence when it is sung. She concludes her section on sharing the Gospel through stories and parables by giving examples of the overwhelming difference that prayer makes.

Although this book is limited to one woman's personal experiences, it stimulates us to build our own bridges to our Muslim women friends. Her concluding challenge is to use hospitality and feast times (both Muslim and Christian) to share truth. Our part is to be "changed, prepared, available and obedient" so that Muslim women will come into God's Kingdom.