

- Is our method an overflow of our worship and prayer-life, individually and corporately? (The vertical method)
- Are we sustaining the variety, flexibility and mobility that is necessary? Or are we succumbing to the powerful temptation to familiarize and institutionalize our forms, a tendency which leads to fossilization? (Our horizontal methods)
- Have we allowed our Radio and BCC ministries to usurp the place of a person-to-person incarnational ministry. Mission numbers are important.

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### BOOK REVIEWS

Anne Cooper, Compiler. Ishmael My Brother: A Biblical Course on Islam. London: MARC Europe & the Evangelical Missionary Alliance, 1985. £3.95. Reviewer: Elsie Maxwell

Here is another book on Islam, hot off the press. But it is special, it is unique, and not just "another book." It is designed as a home study course. Cassettes, leaders notes and other discussion materials are available. The student is expected to spend three to four hours studying each chapter. The course is for serious students, yet is not presented in technical or complicated jargon. It is useful for beginners as well as the more advanced student.

The layout is as follows. Each chapter opens with the instructional objectives of that lesson. The material in each chapter is subdivided into units which clearly present each subject. At the end of each chapter, and even of some units in the chapter, there are activities for the student to use to test himself or apply his new knowledge. The questions are thought provoking, and not the simple question-answer format. Then there is the recommended reading list (considered part of the study course) from which the student must read in preparing the lesson. There are sometimes additional optional readings.

The material is organized under four major headings as follows:

- I. Christian attitudes to those of other faiths.
  - Ch. 1. The Christian and other faiths
  - Ch. 2. Making Muslim friends
- II. Muslim beliefs and practices
  - Chs. 3. & 4. Muslim beliefs and practices
  - Ch 5. The Qur'an
  - Ch. 6. Christians and Muslims debating together
  - Ch. 7. (Bridge) Muhammad, Prophet of Islam (theologically and historically)

III. Historical Development of Islam

- Ch. 8. History and political development of Islam
- Ch. 9. History and significance of sects within Islam
- Ch. 10. Islamic law
- Ch. 11. Christian-Muslim relationships
- Ch. 12. (Bridge) Islam today (politically and culturally)

IV. Cultural dimensions

- Ch. 13. Folk Islam
- Ch. 14. The Gospel and culture
- Ch. 15. Case studies of cultural significance

This book was a team effort; Anne Cooper compiled it with the help of Ron Waine, Ron George, Colin Chapman and Bill Musk. It is a useful new addition to the growing list of study guides on Islam for the Christian worker. It can be studied individually and is excellent for study groups. The activities and reading list are especially suited to student needs. It is excellent because it gives the basics on classical Islam clearly, but it also presents popular or folk Islam--and how it is lived out. I appreciated the opening section that helps the student reflect on his attitude toward Muslims and his need to love others. It is well worth the price even if you are not a beginner. You can use it for training others for witness among Muslims.

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Colin Chapman. You Go and Do the Same: Studies in Relating to Muslims. London: C.M.S., 1983. £1.50. Reviewer: Elsie Maxwell

This is a small book, but really useful. It too is designed as a guide for group study. The first six chapters consist of basic studies in Islam, while the last four cover more difficult issues relating to Christian witness among Muslims. The facts are presented, followed by questions to answer and discuss as well as activities to complete.

The book provokes us to think through the issues and rethink what we believe. I found it extremely practical. It makes us check up on ourselves to find how understanding of Muslims we really are. It gives practical help in dealing with controversies raised by Muslims (p. 49-54). There is an excellent chapter of helps for sharing your faith (Chapter 10) This little book makes an excellent gift to give supporters. You will make a big mistake if you do not add it to your library. It would make good prerequisite reading for Islamic seminars.