

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies (JAMS)*. Many Adventist Church leaders and mission practitioners have felt, for a long time, that a forum was needed to discuss mission issues and challenges. The editors and staff of *JAMS* hope that you will become an active participant in contributing and responding to the articles that will appear in this journal.

The two symbols that appear on the front cover were part of the 1919 Egyptian Independence Movement flag and symbolized the commitment of Muslims and Christians to cooperate in resisting a foreign power that was occupying and ruling their country. In the last one hundred years such cooperation between Muslims and Christians has rarely occurred. Walls of ignorance and misunderstanding have developed that threaten the ability of rational people in both religious groups to have any level of charity or compassion towards those in the other group. When ignorance and suspicion are widespread, hatred and violence are given an opportunity to take the lead role in relationships between these two world religions.

We dare not be satisfied with attaching derogatory labels to the world's second largest religious group, for labeling never enhances the ability to communicate. We must begin to deepen our understanding of the worldview and culture of Muslim people so that we can share God's good news with them in understandable ways.

We hope that this first issue of *JAMS* with its topic, *Bridges to Islam: Helping Christians Understand Islamic Culture and Values*, will challenge the reader to a deeper understanding of the Muslim world. Especially note Cristian Dumitrescu's article dealing with shame and honor in Muslim cultures and Jerald Whitehouse's article, "God's Footprints in the Rubble: Adventist Muslim Relations During Crisis."

The article "A Voice from the Back Seat" presents a statistical look at some of the challenges of the Muslim world and reminds us that business as usual will not make much of a difference in that part of the God's world. Oscar Osindo and Bruce Bauer look at Islam in England and the United States in their articles, and Gabriela Phillips writes on Muslim Spain as a model of peaceful coexistence.

Again, welcome to this new endeavor. Join us in dialogue, discussion and debate for the glory of God.

Bruce L. Bauer, editor