

Bauer: Editorial
EDITORIAL

In the Old and New Testaments God communicated through dreams with both people in the faith community and with those who had nothing to do with belief in the God of Creation. God-given dreams were the means used to guide, warn, protect, and draw people into a saving relationship with God. In the last 20 years there has been a tremendous increase in dreams being reported as a primary means used by God to influence Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists to begin a journey of faith and belief in Jesus Christ.

This issue of the *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies* focuses on God-given dreams and visions. Articles dealing with a biblical and theological basis for dreams indicate that dreams are a legitimate means God uses to communicate with people. Unfortunately, many in the Western world are skeptical of dreams, while most of the non-Western world believe that dreams are used by supernatural powers to communicate important information. Why would God not choose to use dreams to draw people to himself when so many in the world believe that dreams are a way the gods communicate with them?

As a missiologist, one of my concerns is that because of Western skepticism concerning dreams Western missionaries are often blind to this method God is using so would not incorporate dreams as part of their strategy to reach people. Yet, hundreds of stories indicate that a God-given dream often encourages people to start a journey of faith in Jesus or is used to help them overcome an obstacle that is blocking them from becoming a follower of Christ.

Ibrahim Abed Al-Masih's article on the symbols of Revelation being used in many of the dreams Muslims are receiving seems to indicate that God is encouraging the recipients of those types of dreams to spend time reading more in the end-time messages of Revelation.

I believe that God-given dreams are very under-reported; therefore, if you or people you know have dream stories, please send them in. I am especially interested in stories about God-given dreams that Buddhists, Jews, Hindus, secular, and post-modern people have received.

Bruce L. Bauer, editor