Muslim women pose several unique challenges and opportunities in relation to Adventist mission. Perhaps the biggest challenge is that few Adventist women have a passion for developing friendships and ministries for Muslim women. Without women relating spiritually with women, little will or can be accomplished. This is definitely one area where men cannot minister, for most Muslim women can only interact with male relatives.

A much higher percentage of Muslim women are illiterate than are Muslim men so a whole new set of challenges enter the picture. With illiteracy comes the challenge of lower levels of spirituality and a lower level of understanding of Islamic teachings that often lead to a higher percentage of Muslim women involved in Folk Islamic practices and their attendant spiritualistic hold.

Muslim women who have not had an opportunity for attaining an education are much more apt to experience lower levels of self esteem and self worth. This also has the tendency to push some Muslim women to seek power and control over the issues of everyday life through Folk Islamic practices.

Much of the Muslim world has a patriarchal system that can lead to the marginalization of Muslim women. However, God worked through patriarchal systems in biblical history and can certainly work through similar systems today.

All of these challenges provide opportunities for those willing to invest the time and effort to become friends with Muslim women. What is needed is a massive effort to encourage Adventist women to reach out and get to know Muslim women in their neighborhoods and communities. What would happen if Adventist women offered the best literacy classes in town coupled with a genuine interest and love for Muslim women? What would happen if Adventist women could touch their Muslim friend’s spiritual core and help those trapped in Folk Islamic practices find freedom and meaning through the power of Jesus Christ?

This issue of the *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies* offers several articles authored by Adventist women who have learned to walk alongside their sisters in Islam. My prayer is that many more Adventist women would discover the joy of similar ministries.

Bruce L. Bauer, editor