

September 23, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Greetings. I am an SIM (Serving in Mission) "Missionary-at-large," presently based in Charlotte, NC. My wife and I served in Bangladesh from 1962 to 1982. We had extremely close working relationships with IMB folk, whom I hold in highest regard. Jim McKinley is one of the most dedicated missionaries I have ever met anywhere. From 1984 to 2006 Julie and I served in the Philippines among Muslims.

One of the most exciting new tools to enhance outreach among Muslims is Kevin Greeson's *Camel*. I am totally supportive of this approach and feel Kevin is postulating a methodology that is biblically conservative as well as contextually appropriate. As recent as July, I required this book as a text in my class on Islam at Columbia International University. The students were 100 percent enthused with the postulates set forth in **Camel**, and were committed to implementation of the strategy where contextually appropriate in the countries where they labor.

There has been some confusion concerning whether *Camel* represents a C5 position: i.e., have Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) remain in the mosque, say the Islamic creed, delete "Son of God" from New Testament translations, and call themselves Muslims without qualifier. I was on the 2005 IMB survey team in Bangladesh and saw no evidence whatsoever of C5 in any of the IMB-related ministry. I personally interviewed 72 MBBs in Bengali and each one gave a clear profession of faith. On the scale developed by John Travis, the work is C4, which is what I have practiced and taught since 1975. I am sorry that some folk have felt my *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* articles were concerned about a *Camel*-type approach. Not true. My concern is C5, of which I saw and heard nothing in my Bangladesh visit and see no evidence of in *Camel*.

It would be my heartfelt desire that this controversy over *Camel* not be used by Satan to distract IMB from the new, exciting direction they have taken in Muslim outreach. This is a *kairos* moment in evangelistic opportunity. IMB has personnel and resources that can be extremely effective in bringing Muslims to the feet of Jesus.

With warm appreciation....

A Fellow Baptist,

Phil Parshall