



## Bridging the Divide 2011 Consultation Report

Finalized June 23, 2011

At the end of our time together we reached broad consensus on the following:

We gathered for the purpose of "Bridging the Divide" over the differences related to ministry practices in the Muslim world. Over these days we have prayed, worshiped and examined the scriptures. We have examined case studies from the field and celebrated what God is sovereignly doing to call Muslim peoples to Himself and a place in the body of Christ. We have spoken openly and honestly, showing love and respect to one another about our differences. Although serious differences remain and ongoing interaction is needed, we have sought to listen and learn and most of all to hear what God would say to us corporately as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. We have sought to be faithful to Scripture, and by the grace of God we have found agreement on certain issues, clarified misunderstandings and identified issues for further study, reflection and dialogue. With mutual respect and in submission to God and His Word, our authority for faith and practice, we have come to agreement on a number of points and committed ourselves to continue the process that we have begun in these days.

To glorify the Lord and help to bridge the divide between us as we seek to extend the Kingdom to Muslim peoples,

### **We repent of**

- Our careless and harmful and unconfirmed words, gossip, slander, and bitterness that we may have used against each other,
- Our failures to seek to honor brethren above ourselves; and
- Our contributing to a divisive spirit, since God has called us to be co-laborers in declaring His glory among the nations.

### **We reject**

- The insistence that the particular ways God has worked with our community are the only or preferred ways He must work with others in His great harvest ingathering, and
- The practice of encouraging cross-cultural workers from a Christian background to take on a Muslim identity.

### **We affirm**

- God is moving globally in a variety of ways to draw Muslims to Christ,
- The primacy of the Word of God for all aspects of faith and practice guided by the Spirit of God for the people of God, and
- Practicing fidelity in Scripture translation using terms that accurately express the familial relationship by which God has chosen to describe Himself as Father in relationship to the Son in the original languages.

### **We commit to**

- Examine the Scriptures and our own hearts diligently to renew and transform our theological, missiological and ethical understanding and practice,
- Love those in the global community lifting up the Lord among Muslims, pursuing the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and to
- Intentionally seek out opposing peer review for our proposed publications that attempt to characterize the views of those with whom we disagree
- Promote unity and understanding between new and existing expressions of the church, the body of Christ.

**To the End That** all may know the Gospel so that, when Jesus returns in power and great glory, as many as possible will enjoy the new heaven and new earth, for the glory of God alone. Even so come Lord Jesus!