

January Consultation

Strengthens New Nomadic Institute


Ken Jenkins

A varied group of 20 missionaries specializing in ministry to nomads gathered at the U.S. Center for World Mission (USCWM) January 7-11 for a Nomadic Peoples Ministry Consultation co-sponsored by the USCWM, InterDev, and the *International Journal of Frontier Missions*. The gathering coincided with the establishment of a new Institute for Nomadic Studies at the USCWM and the launch of David Phillips' definitive new book, *Peoples On the Move*, co-published by Piquant and William Carey Library.

Malcolm Hunter was the key instigator of the consultation, and his vision was a vital motivator throughout the consultation. However, other participants also contributed valuable experience and insight as we prayed over and talked about the needs, difficulties, joys and frustrations of reaching this mission frontier.

The establishment of the Institute, under Malcolm Hunter's direction, is a vital step to raising the Church's awareness of nomadic peoples and attracting new resources for work among them. There is a need for suitable personnel and for a vast gathering of information to nurture this fledgling project. The Institute has a web site, found at www.uscwm.org/nomads. A number of action steps were agreed upon by participants at the January consultation:

- To pray for suitable people to support the Institute
- To establish a high-quality and actively-updated web site
- To write and seek to publicize the needs of these peoples through magazine articles
- To produce literature with details of the Institute for use in churches, mission conferences, etc.
- To seek to produce a video highlighting the needs of nomads
- To produce a calendar with photos and prayer needs of nomads
- To make regional consultations, mission conferences and field directors aware of the Institute
- To get prayer guides focusing on the nomads on a regular basis
- To identify the 12 most needy nomadic groups
- To produce material on nomads for possible use in Perspectives classes

All these steps need prayer, people and financial support. If you have questions or would like to help, contact us via the Institute's web site or by E-mail at nomad@sierratel.com. 

Dr. Ken Jenkins is a Zimbabwean doctor who has worked for many years in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Over the past four years he has developed a burden for prayer ministry and outreach to nomadic peoples.