

RICE FIELDS

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Editorial

Change is not all bad...

As you will have noticed *Ricefields Journal* is in the process of changing. While you may feel you are being short changed on the number of pages in this issue you are also getting a lot more since it is being sent out together with the ICMC newsletter - to a much wider group than the *RFJ* readership alone. To new readers we say 'Welcome! and happy reading!' To older readers 'Fear not! All is not lost!'

So what is happening? The long silence since the last issue may have caused you grey hairs. Some of you were encouraging enough to write - so at least we know you missed receiving it! Let me explain...

Since last writing a number of significant changes have taken place. For me personally the greatest change has been that of location as we moved from the Philippines back to England, incurring the wrath of Mt. Pinatubo in the process. Now my office is located in a safe, uneventful, English town called Wimborne - a far cry from Asia, but nevertheless still a part of the real world.

More to the point, the RICE networkers have met and Radio In Church-planting Evangelism (RICE) is no more. It has now been reconstituted as International Communications Research for Evangelism (ICRE), the significance of which will be explained in these pages.

Coupled with this - and even more to the point - the funding for *RFJ* dried up leaving only enough for this one final issue.

Beginning with its next issue the new ICMC newsletter *Catalyst* will contain pages set aside for *RFJ* and it will be published quarterly.

As we have talked with the leadership of ICMC during their recent conference in Sheffield, we are convinced that we can accomplish more together through this merger. Practically, expensive printing and mailing costs are reduced, while a wider body of Christian media workers are serviced. As ICMC Director, Bill Thatcher, has said "We want ICMC to become an umbrella for groups like ICRE."

As readers are aware *RFJ* has advocated an integrated approach to evangelism, emphasising the roles of the various media and ministries while seeking ways in which they might complement each other and the ministry of the local church. By joining up with ICMC in this way we are putting our words into action.

In future issues we expect the range of content to be much the same as before though there will be a shift towards research - but not exclusively. Radio will also be the main focus of attention but related media will not be excluded. Manuscripts are invited from any of our readership.

We hope you agree that this change is for the