

## **Proposal for Paper at 15th IAMS Assembly, Sydney**

Proposed Study Group      Religious Freedom, Persecution and Mission

Proposed Topic **On the way to spiritual transformation: Discipleship of Muslim background female believers under pressure in Central Asia**

Author Anneta **Vysotskaya**

### Abstract

*Spiritual transformation is God's will and command for every believer. It is a deep change that takes place inside Christians affecting their spirit, soul and body and making them the light and salt of their community. This transformation is a result of the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God and is a continuous process in a believer's life. The spiritual transformation requires full surrender and obedience to God in all areas, including an individual's worldview and self-image.*

*Central Asia is a predominantly Muslim region where Christians live under daily pressure and restrictions of religious freedom. It especially affects Muslim background believers (MBB) who are first generation believers and are considered by their family and community as traitors of their people.*

*For MBB female believers, spiritual transformation is hindered by the general attitude to women as inferior to men in a Muslim society and culture. A Central Asian MBB woman is brought up with a worldview and self image based on Islamic teaching and culture and receiving Christ does not mean an automatic transformation. Moreover, she is more vulnerable to persecution as compared to men being both a Christian and a woman in a Muslim society.*

*At present, there are very few special discipleship programs aimed at helping a Central Asian female MBB to find her new identity in Christ, to experience spiritual transformation and as a result to strengthen her as a follower of Jesus Christ and His witness in the predominantly Muslim community.*

### References

#### Affiliation

- General Director of ORTA (Russia)
- TEE Consultant for Central Asia'
- Increase Association (Chair of Increase Committee)

AnnetaVysotskaya  
Normandale,  
New Zealand