The Old Testament Testament in Theology and Teaching
Essays in Honor of Kay Fountain

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**CONTENTS**

i  Foreword
   John Carter

v  Introduction
   Teresa Chai and Dave Johnson
   Editors

1  Kay Fountain: Historical-Biographical Sketch
   Adelina C. Ladera

19 Asian Theological Education: Now and Then
   An Asian Pentecostal Pastor-Educator's Survey of
   Theological Education
   Tham Wan Yee

49 Illuminating a Canaanite and Judahite Town:
   The Archaeological Background of Tel Burna
   Itzhaq Shai with Chris McKinny, Benjamin Yang,
   and Deborah Cassuto

69 How Can a Person Read Esther?
   Tim Bulkeley

81 Navigating the Empire: Esther as a Model of Marginalisation
   Jacqueline Grey

95 Gideon and the Angel of the Lord: An Anthropological
   Perspective: Judges 6:11-40
   Dave Johnson

115 Tragedy of Spirit-Empowered Heroes: A Close Look at Samson
   and Saul
   Wonsuk Ma

133 The Charismatic and Non-Charismatic Roles of the Spirit in
   Isaiah 11:1-5
   Lian Sian Mung
155  Wise Participation in the Divine Life: Lessons from the Life of Daniel
    Tim Meadowcroft

175  Old Testament Pedagogy on Mission
    Teresa Chai

191  Profiles of Contributors
FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to write the Foreword for this Festschrift: The Old Testament in Theology and Teaching, honoring Dr. Allison Kay Fountain (known by her colleagues and friends as “Kay” and by her students as “Dr. Kay”). I first became aware of her in 1987 while I was serving as Dean of the College for International Correspondence Institute (ICI – now Global University), when it was located in Brussels, Belgium. Each year the accreditation commission for ICI (the National Home Study Council—NHSC) honored an outstanding student at each academic level that it accredited, and ICI had nominated Kay Fountain for this honor since she had just completed the B.A. in Bible and Theology with an outstanding academic record. She was selected by NHSC as the baccalaureate level recipient for that year from among the world-wide graduates of its accredited schools. The honor included a trip to the NHSC headquarters in Washington D.C. for the award presentation. Since she was travelling from her home in New Zealand, she arranged to make a stop in Brussels to visit the ICI headquarters. Although I was travelling at the time of her visit, I received reports indicating she was a wonderful representative of ICI’s academic programs.

A few years later, when I was serving as APTS Academic Dean, I was surprised to learn that she had applied for admission to our M.A. program. It was my pleasure to have her as a student in several of my classes where she always received the highest grade. In fact, as she had done before, she achieved an outstanding academic record throughout her studies at APTS. After she completed the APTS M.Div. degree, she was invited to join the faculty development program by President Bill
Menzies while continuing her studies for the PhD, which she also completed in record time.

There is no questioning that Kay’s academic career has been characterized by a pattern of excellence and exceptional achievement, culminating in her service to APTS as a faculty member for the past 22 years and as Academic Dean since 2012. But Kay’s interests have not only been in the academic, but also in practical ministry as she has found time to serve the church and Bible school in Mongolia as a missionary educator and pastor, and to serve as pastor of an active church in Baguio, Philippines. Indeed, her ability to balance the academic with practical ministry and maintain a pattern of excellence in both is especially noteworthy. If that weren’t enough, she also qualified herself as a Master scuba diver during recent years.

In keeping with the theme of this Festschrift: The Old Testament in Theology and Teaching, the included articles predominantly provide an Old Testament focus. Significantly, most have been written by Kay’s current and former students and colleagues, both Western and Asian, including one by her PhD mentor, Dr. Tim Bulkeley. The topics range from studies of the book of Esther, the subject of Kay’s own doctoral dissertation, to the consideration of aspects of work of the Holy Spirit in OT contexts (i.e. Wonsuk Ma and Lian Sian Mung). The volume leads off with a review of theological education in Asia by Tham Wan Yee, the current APTS President. Other articles discuss a variety of subjects relevant to Old Testament studies, including an archeological dig in Israel that Kay has participated in and an examination of missions teaching in the Old Testament. Together they provide reflections on a variety of topics that give insight into the scholarly concerns that were relevant to Kay’s own teaching and research.

For anyone involved in higher education, and especially theological education, it is particularly gratifying to see students excel in their own right as they pursue God’s leading in their lives. I can say without hesitation that Dr. A. Kay Fountain is one such student who took everything she was taught, magnified it through her own efforts and achieved noteworthy accomplishments as a teacher and church leader. At every level of both academic and practical ministry endeavor, she has excelled in her achievements. I know that future generations of her own
students will reflect positively upon the influence she has had on their lives.

John F. Carter, PhD
President Emeritus
Asia Pacific Theological Seminary
Kay Fountain
We are privileged to offer this festschrift honoring Dr. Kay Fountain, who for more than twenty years has served the Lord at the Asia Pacific Theological Seminary (APTS), in Baguio City, Philippines, first as a student, then as a faculty member and finally as the Academic Dean. Our hope is that this book will reflect her passion for teaching and understanding the Old Testament, which has instilled in her students that kind of passion for the ministry as well.

Providing us with a personal insight into Kay’s life, her classmate and friend, Dr. Adelina Ladera writes her autobiography. Beginning from some childhood anecdotes, Ladera walks us through the rooms of Fountain’s life with great skill and humor. Clearly, Fountain has led a colorful life with many interesting experiences, which have shaped her to be who she is today. Included are stories from Fountain’s year as a missionary in Mongolia, her 10 years as senior pastor of International Praise Centre, Baguio, as well as her years at APTS.

Next is an article by the President of APTS himself, Rev. Yee Tham Wan, who challenges us to consider how theological education has developed over the years in Asia. Approaching this from both an educator’s and a pastor’s perspective, he deals with both the theoretical and the practical aspects of theological training in Asia.

For several years now, Fountain has been making an annual trip to Israel, joining an archaeological dig at a place called Tel Burna. This chapter is written by her co-workers there, particularly Dr. Itzhak Shai.
It includes the site’s background, which sheds historical light not only on this place, but also helps us appreciate the geographical setting of a typical Canaanite and Judaite town.

Dr. Tim Bulkeley was Fountain’s mentor for her PhD in Old Testament Studies of the Book of Esther. As such, his is a most appropriate article on how a person can read this historical book of the Bible. Bulkeley refers to his time of mentoring Fountain, particularly her reading of the text as a woman. Following up on this, Dr. Jacqueline Grey, an esteemed Associate Professor of the Old Testament, teaching in Alphacrucis College, Australia, writes on how to navigate the contextual background of Esther. Grey proposes that the Book of Esther is about marginalization. She also deals with the modeling and mentoring aspects of Esther, paralleling this with Fountain’s ministry and inspiration to other female educators, missionaries and ministers who have come after her, including Grey herself.

The next few chapters are about other Old Testament characters. Dr. Dave Johnson, a colleague of Fountain’s at APTS, writes from a missiological point of view focusing in on Gideon and the Angel of the LORD as seen in Judges 6:11-40. He gives a fresh way of looking at this passage anthropologically. Johnson has been researching animistic cultures for over twenty years and applies the principles from the Gideon narrative to the Asian context. He also deals with the patron-client relationships seen Judges 6 and in Asian cultures. Then, taking two Bible characters who may be seen as “not-the-best” role models, Dr. Wonsuk Ma, one of Fountain’s former colleagues, helps us learn from the tragic narratives of Samson and Saul (Judges 13 and 1 Samuel 10). These were Spirit-Empowered men who failed and yet there was still a glimmer of hope in their stories. This is a caution to contemporary Pentecostal leaders not to fall into the common trap of pride. Ma’s article deals with the importance for Charismatic leaders of morality and a strong spiritual life.
Dr. Lian Sian Mung, Fountain’s student in Biblical Hebrew and exegesis, has gone on to be an Old Testament scholar in his own right. He gives us insights into the roles of the Spirit found in Isaiah 11:1-5. He divides the roles of the Spirit into two categories of “charismatic” meaning the empowerment for the ministerial task and the “non-charismatic” meaning the character of the person who obeys God being in line with His intention. Then, Dr. Tim Meadowcroft writes about life lessons from Daniel especially on how to wisely participate in life in God. The picture that Meadowcroft paints is that of “earth touching heaven,” interactions of the eschaton with the “here and now,” and the wisdom of God being within reach but also hidden.

The final chapter is written by Dr. Teresa Chai, the successor to Fountain in the APTS Academic Dean position. Fountain has been her boss, local senior pastor, dive instructor, friend and sister in Christ. Chai, in her chapter, looks at the pedagogy of missions in the Old Testament, walking through sections where God clearly teaches His people about His mission among the nations. Special attention is given to pedagogical and missiological implications for the Church today.

Finally, we would like to express a word of appreciation to the Assemblies of God of New Zealand, under the leadership of their general superintendent, Rev. Iliafi Esera, for providing funding for this project.

We hope that the different chapters in this book will warm your hearts and give you new insights into the Old Testament in theology and teaching. You are welcome to contact us with questions and comments through www.apts.edu.

Sincerely in Christ,

Teresa Chai, Ph.D and Dave Johnson, D.Miss
Editors

~ vii ~