

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

There were just too many good articles submitted for the editors to include in the previous "Pentecostal Ministries" issue. This over-flow provides most of the articles listed in the Table of Contents. We are thrilled that these articles represent such variety, ranging from Asian Pentecostal immigrants in Canada to a study of an unusual Japanese Pentecostal-like cult. The article on Philippine Pentecostal churches provides an analysis not only of Pentecostal growth, but also of Protestant Christianity in general. A study on the healing movement is a useful challenge for Asians to engage in similar studies. A provocative philosophical treatment of Pentecostal theology is provided by an Asian American Pentecostal.

The second part of the present issue has several studies under "Pentecostal Education." Several general articles provide useful survey and reflection. An Asian Pentecostal educator provides a useful historical survey and suggestions for the future. A veteran missionary educator tells us his spiritual journey that has revolutionized his theological education. In addition, the present issue draws from two occasions: The First Annual Meeting of Asian Pentecostal Society (APS) held in Korea in 1998, and a Scholars Dialogue, held in Springfield, MO, U.S.A. in March, 1999. From the APS meeting, we publish two studies by a black Pentecostal and Latin American Pentecostal educators. The Springfield conference also provides two studies published in this issue. Since these contributions, in some ways, do not exactly conform to other studies of the journal, an introduction may be in order.

In March of 1999, under the sponsorship of the Executive Presbytery of the Assemblies of God, the second in a series of Scholars' Dialogues convened in Springfield, Missouri, U.S.A. The participants, comprising about twenty individuals, came by invitation. An attempt was made to gather together some of the best theological minds in the Assemblies of God, chiefly from denominational colleges and seminaries. This panel of scholars met with a few representatives from the Executive Presbytery in a relaxed environment designed to elicit frank and open interchange. The forum grew out of a special committee appointed by the Executive

Presbytery in 1997. The committee, chaired by Executive Presbyter David Argue of Lincoln, Nebraska, was charged with the assignment of revisiting the issue of the initial physical evidence (speaking in other tongues) of baptism in the Holy Spirit. The objective was to study ways for strengthening the teaching of the doctrine in the fellowship and reinforcing commitment to this core message of Pentecostalism. Questions had surfaced, growing out of the flood of materials being written by many Evangelicals and Charismatics, most of which have been critical of traditional Pentecostal theology, that required a response. Some Assemblies of God pastors and students had expressed a degree of confusion because of the conflicting messages being received. So, for more than two years the special committee met to engage in research and reflection. From its findings a report was to be made, with recommendations, to the Executive Presbytery.

Twice during the course of the life of the special committee, a Scholars' Dialogue was convened in Springfield, at General Council expense, to develop a broad scope of theological input from Assemblies of God scholars. At the second of these dialogues, the scope of discussion moved beyond the central theological topic to the broader topic of the appropriate relationships that should be encouraged between Pentecostal scholars and the executive leadership of the denomination. Dr. Edgar Lee, Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Springfield, Missouri, was asked to present a paper addressing the question, "What the Academy Needs from the Church?" Dr. Richard Dresselhaus, pastor of First Assembly, San Diego, California, and a member of the national Executive Presbytery, presented a paper on "What Can the Academy Do for the Church?"

The editors of the *AJPS* believe that the dialogue between scholars and church leaders is a good model to present to other Pentecostal bodies. The papers of the second dialogue are presented here, with the full approval of the authors and of the Executive Presbytery of the American Assemblies of God. Since Pentecostals are strongly experience-oriented, and are often criticized for various forms of anti-intellectualism, the fact that Pentecostals operate more Bible schools around the world than any other family of Christian believers poses a genuine ambiguity. We believe that the following articles establish a clear set of principles that can provide guidance for Pentecostals who are genuinely eager to keep issues of the "head," the "heart," and the "hand" together in a biblical way.

The two *AJPS* issues scheduled for 2001 have been assigned by the editors for publishing studies of early historical material of the

Pentecostal movement in various Asian nations. This is our way of celebrating the centennial of this powerful religious phenomenon of the last century. The editors would welcome suggestions from potential writers to these special publications for 2001.

The editors would like to acknowledge the continuing support of our readers. Increased subscriptions to the journal and submission of quality studies demonstrates that AJPS is indeed meeting an important need.

The journal is being indexed by the American Theological Library Association, among others. We celebrate this modest achievement with our readers. May God's name be glorified.

Editors

Forthcoming in *Asian Journal of Pentecostal Studies*:

"In the Beginning..."

- ✓ Studies of early Pentecostal history in Asia,
- ✓ To celebrate the centennial of the Pentecostal movement,
- ✓ To be published in nos. 1 and 2 of vol. 4 (2001).

For inquiries or potential contribution,
contact the editors.